Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

$1

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 103

WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2022

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Mendiola appointed casino commish representing Rota. PAGE 3

Micro Beach Road, AMP restrooms temporarily closed. PAGE 6

INSTAGRAM BOYFRIEND

A Korean visitor takes a much-desired and iconic photograph of his partner strolling peacefully along a beautiful, deserted tropical beach last Thursday afternoon, as the warm, sapphire-blue ocean water laps on the Obyan shore.

MARK FARMER

IN THE CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST TORRES

Judge to rule on motion to disqualify Torres' lawyers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

After hearing the arguments of both parties and reviewing dozens of pages of arguments in support and in opposition to the motion to disqualify Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' counsels, judge pro tempore Alberto E. Tolentino has taken the matter under advisement and will soon issue a written order.

Following yesterday's hearing on the motion to disqualify Viola Alepuyo and Anthony Aguon as counsels for Torres in the criminal suit filed by the Office of the Attorney General, Tolentino said he will rule on it before the case's evidentiary hearing on Tuesday, May 31.

Torres did not appear at the

See JUDGE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Luhk sisters vanished 11 years ago

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Photo taken yesterday shows the makeshift shrine that the family of sisters Maleina and Faloma Luhk had built on the spot on Santa Lourdes Road corner As Teo Drive in As Teo, where the sisters were last seen as they waited for a school bus in the morning of May 25, 2011. The family will offer personal prayers at the shrine today, Wednesday, which marks the 11th year of the sisters' disappearance.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's been 11 years already, yet there remains no trace of the whereabouts of sisters Maleina and Faloma Luhk.

Today, Wednesday, marks the 11th year since the Luhk sisters mysteriously vanished near their house in As Teo in the early morning of May 25, 2011, while waiting for a school bus.

Maleina and Faloma would have been 20 and 21 years old now as they had just their birthdays last February.

Maleina was 9 years old, while Faloma was 10 when

See LUHK on Page 4

Saipan native serves with the US Navy logistics support squadron

By RICK BURKE
NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MILLINGTON, Tenn.—A Saipan native serves with Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Three Zero (VRC 30) based at Naval Support Activity North Island, California.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Maki Yoshimoto Aquino joined the Navy three years ago for better opportunities in life.

"After [Super] Typhoon Yutu impacted Saipan in 2018, it completely destroyed my workplace," said Aquino. "It was then that I decided to join the Navy. I also wanted a better life for myself and my daughter."

Aquino attended Marianas High School on Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands and graduated in 2006. Today, Aquino is a Navy aircrew survival equipmentman, or PR.

"My favorite part about being a PR is not just understanding the inspections, but the reason behind why we do the

See SAIPAN on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Petty Officer 3rd Class Maki Yoshimoto Aquino is a Navy aircrew survival equipmentman.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Coral reef scientists have completed their first survey of the reefs in the Marianas.

Page 7

BUSINESS

The Last Shot Bar in Chalan Kanoa beside the Surfrider Resort Hotel has turned 1.

Page 11

ASIA

Outgoing Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sharply criticizes Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Page 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

37 graduate from Rota high; 35 junior high are promoted

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After two years of modified drive-through graduation ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2022 graduation and Class of 2026 promotion ceremonies of the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School returned this year to pre-pandemic celebrations, with families, friends, and faculty and staff joining the graduates for the occasion.

Among the 37 graduates of the Rota high school's Class of 2022, Cevon Atalig Calvo was named class valedictorian while Namiko Nani Mendiola Calvo was the class salutatorian.

Among the 35 junior high school promotees, Rianna Isa Tuazon Barcinas was the valedictorian and Lovelee Zhene Balidad Jingco was the salutatorian.

Cevon Calvo also received the Board of Education Award, while Namiko Calvo received the Commissioner of Education Award. Both Calvos will be attending Northern Marianas College.

CEVON ATALIG CALVO
High school valedictorian

NAMIKO NANI MENDIOLA CALVO
High school salutatorian

RIANNA ISA TUAZON BARCINAS
Junior high valedictorian

LOVELEE ZHENE BALIDAD JINGCO
Junior high salutatorian

For the high school graduates, the top honors went to seven graduates: Cevon Calvo, Namiko Calvo, Hannah Mejia Nerizon, Angela Ann Presas Guian, Viera Nicole Hocog Atalig, Necimo George Cotas Atalig, and Zolekha Liz Sayal Dewan.

For the Governor's Award and the Mayor's Award, the recipient was Cevon Calvo.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award and Outstanding Female Graduate Award went to Namiko Calvo.

The Principal's Award for the high school graduates went to Jed Riman Sta. Theresa and was presented by RHI principal D. Tanya King.

The Most Improved Award went to Jerony Jay Mendiola Pinaula.

The top junior high school promotees were Barcinas, Jingco, Jelina Renee Aldis Calvo, Eianne Miel Mangalindan Ladao, Carlos Antonio Atalig Calvo, Edward Ullou Maratita III, Ngiraibai Bernard Takawo, Danica Lovidad Malaborbor, and Lorenzo Zyler Curameng Hocog.

Finance's HOT arrears with MVA now down to $1.05M

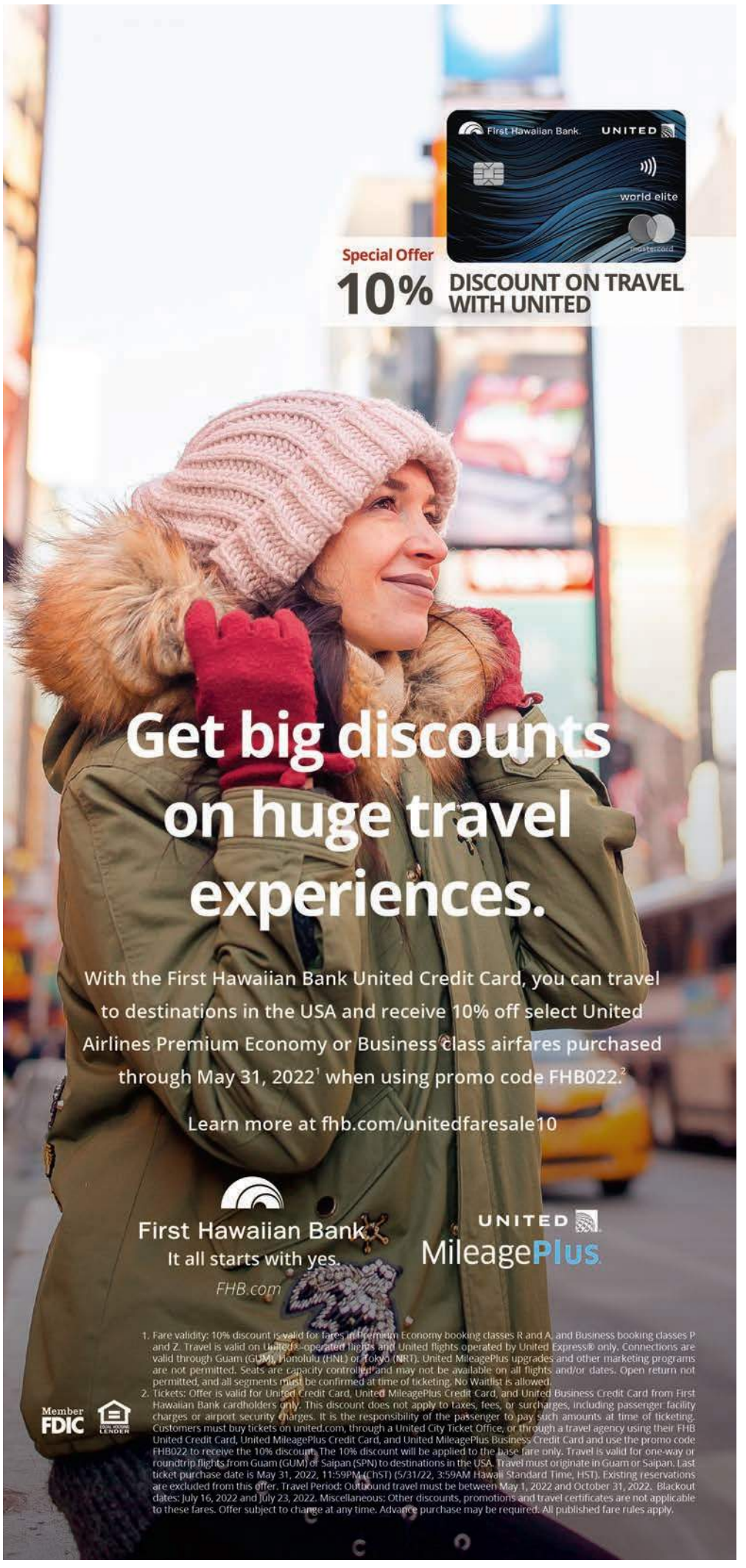
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of Sept. 30, 2021, the amount of Hotel Occupancy Tax that the Department of Finance owes the Marianas Visitors Authority has decreased to about $1.057 million, according to MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

In MVA's fourth quarter report for fiscal year 2021 that the Legislature received last Friday, Iakopo disclosed that they received from Finance for that period $1 million as payment for MVA's share in HOT that is owed.

To date, she said, MVA is

See FINANCE'S on Page 4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2. Tickets: Offer is valid for United Credit Card, United MileagePlus Credit Card, and United Business Credit Card from First Hawaiian Bank cardholders only. This discount does not apply to taxes, fees, or surcharges, including passenger facility charges or airport security charges. It is the responsibility of the passenger to pay such amounts at time of ticketing. Customers must buy tickets on united.com, through a United City Ticket Office, or through a travel agency using their FHB United Credit Card, United MileagePlus Credit Card, and United MileagePlus Business Credit Card and use the promo code FHB022 to receive the 10% discount. The 10% discount will be applied to the base fare only. Travel is valid for one-way or roundtrip flights from Guam (GUM) or Saipan (SPN) to destinations in the USA. Travel must originate in Guam or Saipan. Last ticket purchase date is May 31, 2022, 11:59PM (ChST) (5/31/22, 3:59AM Hawaii Standard Time, HST). Existing reservations are excluded from this offer. Travel Period: Outbound travel must be between May 1, 2022 and October 31, 2022. Blackout dates: July 16, 2022 and July 23, 2022. Miscellaneous: Other discounts, promotions and travel certificates are not applicable to these fares. Offer subject to change at any time. Advance purchase may be required. All published fare rules apply.
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Saipan Tribune is looking for correspondents who will be assisting the newspaper with its news or sports coverages, or will assist the Advertising Section with advertorial write-ups.

Correspondents are paid per word and photo, so you essentially control your own time and the subject of your coverage.

The only requirements are good writing skills and flexibility in work hours. Knowledge in creative writing, newswriting, or sports writing is a plus.

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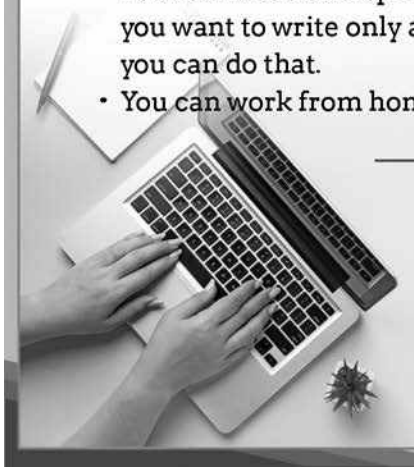

For those who would like to apply, you may email your application letter and résumé to editor@saipantribune.com or give them to Mia Carreon at HR on the second floor of the JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan. A sample of your previous written work will be helpful.

New Zealand plane finds 7 missing aboard 2 boats in Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's military said Tuesday that an air force plane had found seven people who had gone missing aboard two small boats near the remote Pacific nation of Kiribati.

The military said the crew aboard an Orion plane had coincidentally spotted the two boats within 10 nautical miles (18.5 kilometers) of each other Monday after the boats went missing in separate incidents from the island nation late last week.

The military said one of the boats had drifted 150 nautical miles (280 kilometers) from its intended course while the other one was closer to where it had gone missing near Makin Island.

AP

In this image supplied by the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF), crew wave to a RNZAF Orion near Makin Island in Kiribati, Monday, May 23, 2022.

The military crew was able to drop survival kits with water and locator beacons to those aboard, and then contacted nearby boats to rescue the survivors. Among those rescued was an 11-year-old.

Air Commodore Shaun Sexton said it was a great result to be able to find the survivors on both boats.

In a social media post sent before the survivors were found, the Kiribati government had said it had requested New Zealand send a search and rescue team and was grateful for their ongoing help during such incidents.

Located south of Hawaii, Kiribati is home to about 114,000 people and doesn't have its own military.

Mendiola appointed casino commish representing Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has nominated Martin T. Mendiola to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Casino Commission to represent Rota.

Torres appointed Mendiola to replace Diego M. Songao, who resigned as CCC commissioner last September 2021 due to health reasons.

The Senate has yet to confirm Mendiola's nomination. If confirmed, he will serve the remaining term vacated by Songao, which will expire on April 30, 2024.

Torres notified the Senate that he is confident in Mendiola's leadership to carry out the mandates of the board in governing and managing CCC.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mendiola used to serve as administrator of the Roxta branch of the Northern Marianas College and resident director of the Rota Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Even without Songao, the commissioners have been meeting because only three commissioners are needed in order to have a quorum.

The CCC commissioners elect their officers yearly but decided last April 28 to retain the status quo in their respective positions. Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero remains the chairman, Ralph S. Demapan is vice chairman, Ramon Dela Cruz is secretary, and Mariano Taitano is treasurer.

The CCC's main source of funding is the annual $3 million regulatory fee and other fees paid by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the exclusive Saipan casino licensee. However, it has failed to do so in recent past. IPI's casino has yet to reopen since its shutdown in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NMC graduate passes NCLEX-RN

Morales

Northern Marianas College 2021 nursing graduate Rodileen Morales has joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

"We commend Rodileen for this accomplishment and expect to see great things from her as her educational and professional journey continues," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

"We are very proud of Rodileen and we wish her the best of luck in her career," NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa T. Aldan said. "Passing the NCLEX-RN and then being licensed as a Registered Nurse are great achievements."

According to Morales, she had always wanted to be a nurse since she was a child.

"I have always wanted to pursue a nursing career ever since I was little, so achieving this dream feels amazing," Morales said. "I grew up wanting to pursue a career in the medical field because I will be able to help those in our community."

Morales added that NMC's nursing instructors helped her prepare for the NCLEX. "Toward the last semester of the program, the instructors allocated time for NCLEX review sessions which were very helpful," Morales said. "Having a strong support system of friends and family who believed in me also contributed to me passing the NCLEX."

For students who are planning to take the exam, Morales said that they should take all the time they need to prepare.

"Take your time and believe in yourself," Morales said. "You may tend to doubt or second guess your knowledge, abilities, or your skills, but believing and trusting yourself really makes a huge difference in preparing for the NCLEX." ***(NMC)***

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COVID update: 18 new cases; 0 hospitalization

An additional 18 cases of COVID- 19 were identified in the CNMI last week, bringing the total number of cases on island to 11,333 since March 28, 2020, according to the latest report from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Also, the CNMI currently has zero hospitalizations.

Of the 18 new cases, six were identified on May 16, 2022; one on May 18, 2022; another six on May 19, 2022; three on May 20, 2022; one on May 21, 2022; and one more on May 22, 2022.

From March 28, 2020 to May 22, 2022 there have been 11,287 recoveries, 12 active cases, and 34 COVID-19-related deaths. Of this number, 10,396 were identified via community testing and 937 via travel testing.

As of May 23, 2022, a total of 23,257 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered. Of the eligible population, 62.3% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

CHCC reported that a total of 1,454 COVID-19 tests were conducted between May 16-22, 2022.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated since they have a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468.

Free COVID-19 testing is also available, simply register at https://covidtesting.chcc.health. There is no code is required to register. Pre-registration is highly recommended. Reserve your slot to get tested before you line up and all slots are filled.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms you should stay home (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19) and live COVID-19 safe. Other options include seeing your health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. ***(Chrystal Marino/Angel Li)***

ROTA MY WAVE CLUB MVA

Fourteen students of the Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically (MY WAVE) Club of Sinapalo Elementary School marked Marianas Tourism Month last May 14, 2022, by conducting a cleanup at Chamorro Village in Sinapalo, Rota. The cleanup was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

FINANCE'S

From Page 2

reconciling with Finance's record the remaining balance owed MVA for its share of the HOT.

As part of local law, MVA gets a share of the HOT, as remitted to it by Finance. The CNMI Budget Act of FY 2021, however, suspended earmarked funds for that fiscal year, including MVA's entitlement in HOT.

MVA was provided an allocation of $2.19 million in the CNMI's budget in fiscal year 2021.

As of Sept. 30, 2021, MVA spent all $2.17 million of its amended budget for fiscal year 2021 for personnel and all other others, and $888,424 of its amended budget for advertising and marketing.

It was during that period when the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan was developed through the collaborative efforts of the MVA, the administration, key travel industry stakeholders, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the COVID-19 Task Force, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other partners.

TRIP was implemented to jumpstart the Marianas tourism economy to get people back to work, as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, American Rescue Plan Act, and other financial aid were anticipated to end.

After months of negotiations with the Korean government, the Travel Bubble Agreement was signed on June 30, 2021, by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres with the Korea Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Vice Minister. The agreement allows fully vaccinated CNMI residents and Korean residents to travel between the CNMI and Korea without the need to be quarantined.

"This agreement will ensure the success of the resumption the Korean visitors to the CNMI, jumpstarting our tourism industry," Iakopo said.

The TRIP program was launched on July 1, 2021, but, according to Iakopo, it took a while for it to gain speed. She said visitor arrivals began to rapidly increase in September 2021.

Although they were provided limited funding due to the impacts of the pandemic, Iakopo they managed to organize the Hafa Adai and Tirow Summer Jam on July 31, 2021, the annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden in August 2021, and the World Tourism Day in September 2021.

Iakopo said destination enhancement at major tourism sites remain largely suspended due to funding constraints.

She said they, however, continued their role of permitting liaison for projects of the Public-Private Partnership under the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

In 2021, the MVA's Strategic Plan Toward Sustainable Tourism Industry 2021-2031 was adopted to chart priorities for the next decade.

Iakopo said the Hafa Adai and Tirow Pledge program was launched under this Strategic Plan to promote indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture to visitors.

LUHK

From Page 1

they disappeared while waiting for the school bus at a bus shelter along As Teo Drive in the corner of Santa Lourdes Road.

Their disappearance triggered an islandwide search for a month by federal and local law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and drew many volunteers in the community.

Saipan Tribune visited yesterday afternoon the residence of the Luhk sisters' grandfather, Elbert Quitugua, who had been taking care of the sisters in his house at that time. He was not home yesterday; it was learned that he had gone fishing. Quitugua's wife said they will offer personal prayers today, Wednesday, at a makeshift shrine that their family had built on the spot where the children were last seen.

She said there is no development yet in the investigation as far as she knows.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from the FBI.

FBI Honolulu Division special agent-in-charge Steven Merrill stated last year that they have been working with the CNMI Department of Public Safety for the past decade to find the missing girls.

Merrill said the FBI still considers the case an open investigation and remains steadfast in its commitment to finding the girls and exacting justice.

The FBI is offering a reward of up to $25,000 for information regarding the sisters' whereabouts.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

things that we do," said Aquino.

Aquino uses skills and values similar to those found on Saipan to succeed in the Navy.

"Growing up [on] Saipan and working two job at the same time has taught me the importance of perseverance, patience, and respect," said Aquino.

VRC 30, also known as the "Providers," is a C-2A Greyhound logistics aircraft squadron supporting U.S. Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers. The C-2A Greyhound is the U.S. Navy's carrier-onboard-delivery aircraft, providing critical logistics support. The C-2A can deliver a payload of up to 10,000 pounds and is equipped to accept litter patients in medical evacuation missions. Priority cargo such as jet engines can be transported from shore to ship in a matter of hours.

Serving in the Navy means Aquino is part of a world that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy can send out its medical forces, logistic support and communication tools to save lives during a disaster," said Aquino.

With more than 90% of all trade traveling by sea, and 95% of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through underwater fiber optic, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

Aquino and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I am most proud of facing my fear of getting my collateral duty inspector certificate," said Aquino. "As a collateral duty inspector, I've learned and improved in a lot of aspects pertaining to my job."

As Aquino and other sailors continue to train and perform the missions they are tasked with, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy has given me a chance to better myself and to continue learning and improving," added Aquino. "After joining the Navy, I was able to pay off half of my debts. These were debts I was struggling with to pay off with two jobs back home."

JUDGE

From Page 1

hearing but was represented by Alepuyo, Aguon, and Matthew Holley.

Last May 2, OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass notified the court about a potential conflict within Alepuyo and Aguon due to their representation of Torres and certain trial witnesses, specifically Frances Dela Cruz and officer Jomalyn Gelacio. On May 3, the court converted the notice to a motion and set a briefing schedule and hearing date on the motion for May 24.

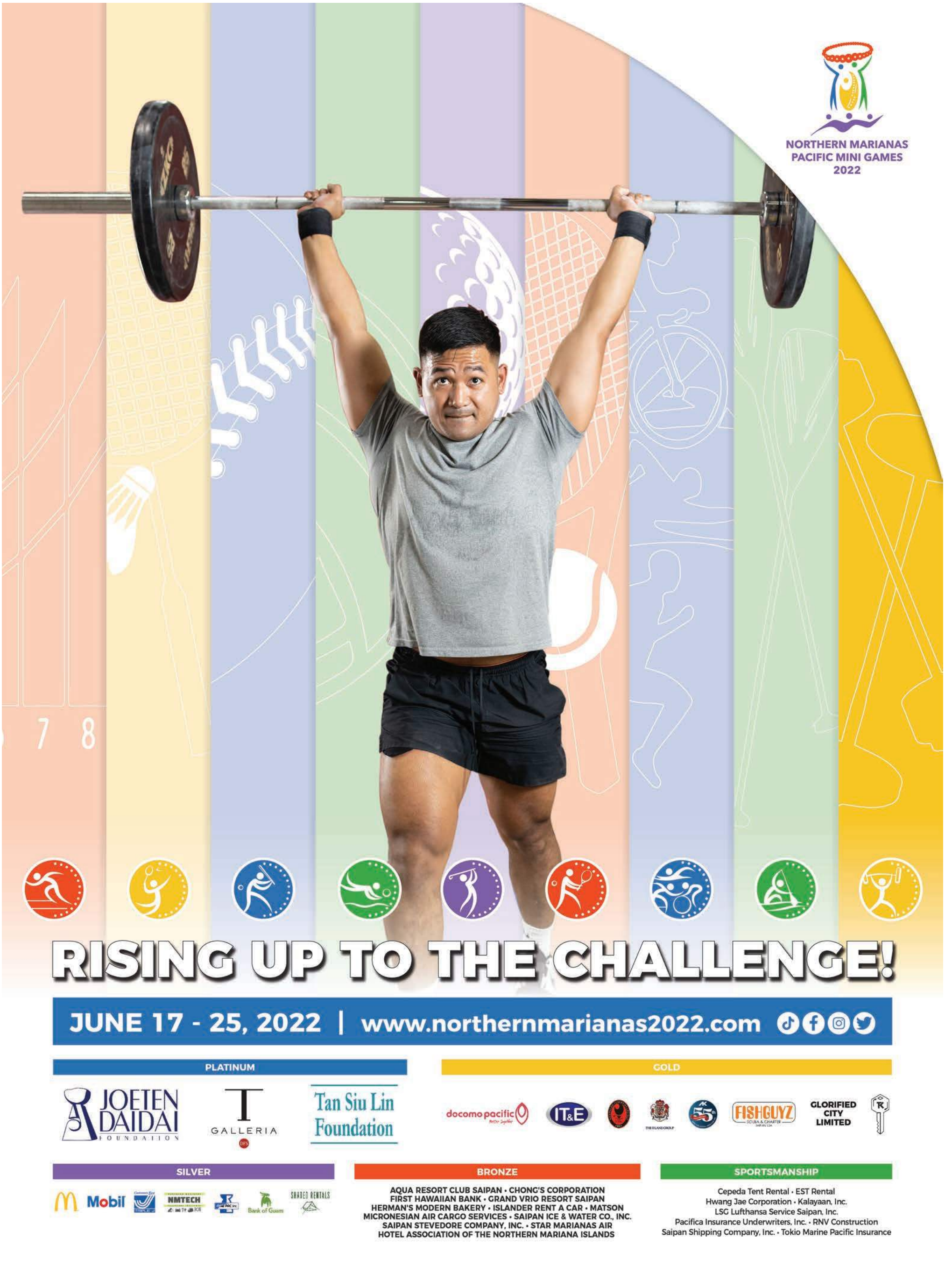
On May 13, Holley filed his opposition, arguing procedural deficiencies in the filing due to the court's conversion of the notice to a motion, and "only briefly responding to the merits of the notice, mostly arguing that the Sixth Amendment choice of counsel is paramount and cannot be disturbed," according to Glass.

Glass, for his arguments, said the defense had argued that disqualifying Alepuyo and Aguon would impose an undue hardship and prejudice but provided no argument or reasoning for what undue hardship or prejudice Torres would face.

"In the single, declaratory sentence, the defense only provides arguments of counsel, which are not evidence. The U.S. Supreme Court cases are binding precedent when interpreting the Sixth Amendment, and set the procedure for the issue of potential conflicts between defendant's counsel and prosecution witnesses; and that the trial court has inherent power to convert the notice to a motion for purposes of its inquiry into the issue," he said.

In response, Holley argued that the OAG also has a conflict of interest in this case and this conflict of interest is nonwaivable and uncurable and requires disqualification.

"If, however, this court determines that the conflict is subject to Rule 1.7(b), then disqualification is still mandated as the OAG has not satisfied the criteria of Rule 1.7(b), most notably, the lack of written consent from its client to prosecute him after consultation with the client. Here, the OAG did not have any consultation with its client before initiating this prosecution or prior to seeking to deprive its client of his Sixth Amendment right. Likewise, the OAG did not obtain, and still does not have, written consent from its client allowing the OAG to criminally prosecute him or seek to deprive him of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel of his choice," said Holley.



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Micro Beach Road, AMP restrooms temporarily closed

American Memorial Park officials announced yesterday that the Micro Beach Road and the Micro Beach restrooms at American Memorial Park will be under construction starting Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

While road work is underway, Micro Beach Loop as well as the Micro Beach restrooms will be closed to the public. Beach areas will still be accessible by foot.

Park improvements include paving the road and adding sidewalks to enhance visitor access and safety. The community's understanding is appreciated while these improvements are being made. For additional information, contact Chief Ranger Jayson Tinney at (670) 234-7207 or 2009 or email jayson_tinney@nps.gov.

Visit the American Memorial Park website (nps.gov/amme) for park information or follow @americanmemorialpark. ***(AMP)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5.4-magnitude earthquake in Rota region

At 4:45am yesterday, May 24, 2022, a report of a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 14.114°N 145.976°E of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption today

There will be an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Beach Road Chalan Piao from the Mobil Gas Station south to the Victory Chapel Church today, May 25, 2022, from 8:30am to 4pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC operations personnel to repair a 4-inch mainline break near the Subway Restaurant in Chalan Piao. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after.

Motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Power service interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on May 27, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing systems maintenance.

■ Time: 9am to 1pm

o Area(s) affected: Portions of Tun Kiyoshi Road.

■ Momentary Power Service Interruption

Time: 9am to 9:30am and 12:30pm to 1pm

o Area(s) affected: Portions of Tun Kiyoshi Road (Pontan Dr., Bulachu Pl., Gaole Dr., and Pokkat Ln.).

■ Purpose: To replace two existing 55' concrete poles to 45' concrete poles.

■ Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well(s) Affected: KV-9, KV-11 KV-12, KV-13, KV-15, KV-16, KV-17, KV-111 and KV-116.

o Area(s) affected: Koblerville, San Antonio. Chalan Piao. Susupe. Chalan Piao. Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and Oleai may be affected based on tank level.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Water service interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for customers along Beach Road Chalan Kanoa from Tasi Homes to Great Harvest on Friday, May 27, 2022, from 9am to 3pm.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's contractor for the Islandwide Water Meter Installation Project, to perform a leak repair and defective valve change-out at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and aims to address the non-revenue water problems in the CNMI.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (httns://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Military field training exercise in the CNMI

Joint Region Marianas advises the CNMI community of convoy operations with tactical military vehicles scheduled to support an upcoming military exercise from June 5-13.

During the convoy operations, numerous tactical military vehicles will traverse public roads on Saipan. Additionally, the public may see increased activity at the Port of Saipan and parts of Tinian associated with the training.

The planned military activities should not conflict with the Pacific Mini Games scheduled for mid-June.

For an opportunity to view a static display of the military tactical vehicles, contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs office at (670) 488-0220.

For more information about the military exercise, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at CJRMPAO@fe.navy.mil or (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

Guam PTEC sets 2 free webinars a week

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering two more free webinars this May. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ May 26 – PIEE/WAWF - Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to set up an account and submit an invoice so you get paid on time.

■ May 31 and June 2, 2022 – Cybersecurity - Department of Defense vendors need to protect themselves from cyber attacks. We will discuss DOD's current requirements as well as the upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC 2.0).

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

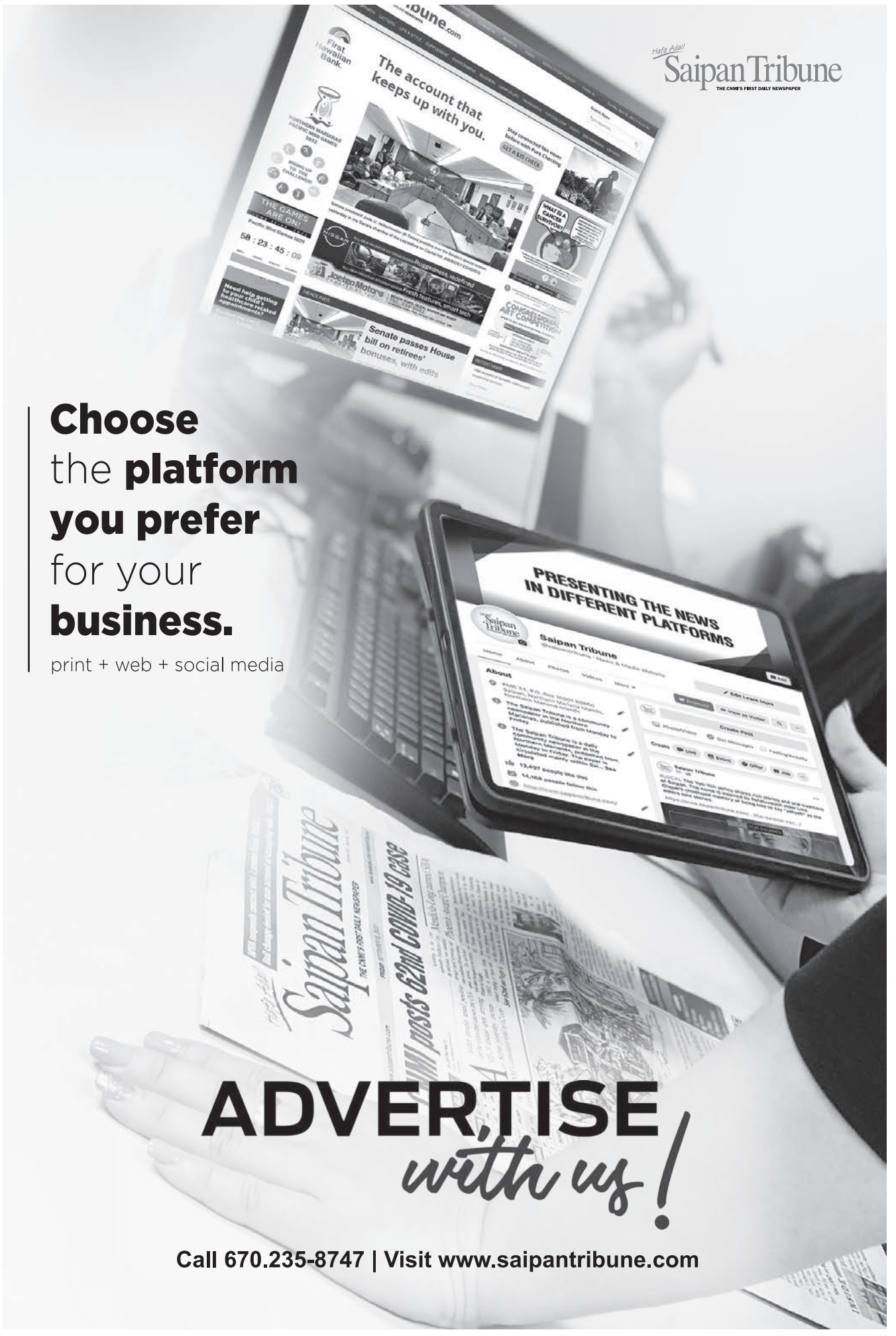
UOG Regent Nominating Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the University of Guam Regent Nominating Council is rescheduled for 3pm on Thursday, May 26, at the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Administration building, Room 262.

A broadcast of the meeting via video livestream will be available on the UOG YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/uogtritons.

This complies with paragraph 3 of the Governor's Executive Order No. 2021-05, dated Feb. 27, 2021, related to Open Government and Participation in Meetings via Teleconferencing during the emergency declaration period.

The University of Guam complies with Guam Public Law 36-34 changes to the Open Government Law and Guam Public Law 24-109 with reference to the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For special accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator at (671) 735-2244 or (TTY) (671) 735-2243. Live closed captioning is available through a website link provided within the online meeting. ***(PR)***



Initial survey of Marianas coral reefs now finished

The ocean and climate change team prepare a suite of instruments to carefully lower to the seafloor to record environmental information.
NOAA FISHERIES

NOAA FISHERIES/K. URQUHART
Divers swim in concentric circles collecting images of the reef that they will stitch together later to form a three-dimensional model.

NOAA FISHERIES/MIA LAMIRAND
A scientist conducts a reef fish survey at Aguiguan Island.

NOAA FISHERIES/MATT CHAUVIN
A curious anemonefish looks at a diver during a fish survey on Tinian.

Coral reef scientists aboard the NOAA Ship *Rainier* recently completed their first 24-day survey of the reefs in the Marianas archipelago.

According to a release from the Ecosystem Sciences Division of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center on updates about the *Rainier* Marianas cruise, one team conducted 108 surveys around the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Aguiguan, and Rota. They assessed their reef fish populations by counting the number of each species of fish and estimating their sizes. The team counted all kinds of fish, from stingrays to anemonefish.

Another coral reef team was busy measuring ocean conditions with an array of instruments. They collected water samples at 94 sites, and retrieved and deployed more than 130 instruments. These instruments measured water temperature, depth, currents, pH, dissolved oxygen, and light.

The scientists also photographed the seafloor to create three-dimensional models of the reefs, which will show what is growing on them. At sites that are re-visited over time, they will see how much coral has grown or if coral colonies have died.

Another team mapped the shallow areas using two small boats while the *Rainier* collected data in the deeper areas. These mapping surveys include bathymetry (water depth) and backscatter (bottom type) data. Scientists combine them to create detailed three-dimensional maps of the seafloor and its different habitats. These maps will update nautical charts and support marine resource management in the region. The *Rainier* charted areas that have not been surveyed in more than 80 years!

This is just the beginning of the *Rainier's* mission, which will run through August. For now, these scientists have traveled back to Honolulu and a new group of coral researchers have joined the ship.

The Rainier Integrates Charting, Hydrography, and Reef Demographics mission aboard the NOAA ship *Rainier* kicked off its first leg in March. In this mission, scientists with different backgrounds share the goals of measuring water depths, mapping the seafloor, and gathering information on coral reef habitats. The data from this mission will support efforts in the region including the National Coral Reef Monitoring Program's long-term coral reef monitoring and nautical charts.

Be sure to follow the progress on their coral and mapping story maps and the *Rainier*'s Facebook page! ***(PR)***

'Caregivers for veterans with disabilities have now started applying for assistance program'

Sablan

Marianas families caring for veterans with disabilities have begun to apply for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter that they were successful at making the CNMI eligible for such assistance program early this month.

He said he followed up Tuesday with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs deputy secretary Donald Remy, who reported the department is already receiving applications.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers is for eligible veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Sablan said caregivers may receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, and reimbursement for travel costs, as well as training in how to help their family's disabled veteran.

Sablan said he raised several concerns regarding the rollout, and Remy committed to making sure the VA has the necessary administrative staff to start up the Marianas program and reduce processing times.

The delegate thanked Remy for his work on caregivers and look forward to their continued collaboration.

"If you need help applying for the VA caregivers program, or want to learn more about who may be eligible, please reach out to your congressional office on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota," he said. ***(Feride De La Torre)***

Shriners Children's conduct outreach at CHCC Children's Clinic

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Children's Clinic, the Shriners Children's Hawai'i outreach team provided services at the Children's Clinic on Saipan last May 2-4, 2022, for children and adolescents (ages 0-18 years), and children with special health care needs.

The Shriners Children's Hawai'i team saw a total of 103 children, of which 76 were returning patients and 27 were new patients from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Orthotics services were also provided to children in need, which included fitting for braces to help strengthen or straighten the back, knees, or feet.

Additionally, the team identified and began preparations for patients who needed surgery, as well as scheduled telehealth visits to ensure continuity of care. CHCC continues to utilize telehealth/telemedicine to enhance and provide services for the children/adolescents in the CNMI, including Tinian and Rota.

Mike Nishimoto and Dr. Craig Ono provided services to 103 children during a recent trip to the CNMI as part of Shriners Children's Hawai'i's outreach efforts.
CHCC

The Shriners Children's outreach team consisted of Dr. Craig Ono, orthopedic physician; Mike Nishimoto, nurse practitioner; Dianna Le, orthotist; and Eric Tsukamoto, outreach coordinator—all of whom have extensive experience providing health care for children with congenital and other childhood orthopedic issues resulting from bone, joint, muscle, and sports injuries. During their visit, the Shriners Children's Hawai'i team worked closely with the CHCC pediatricians and program coordinator, Shiella Marie Deray, to ensure the success of the outreach efforts.

For families who want their children to be evaluated or missed their appointment with the Shriners Children's outreach clinic, a telehealth/telemedicine visit can be arranged. However, it is advisable for families to visit their child's primary care provider so that a referral can be facilitated.

For additional information on orthopedic concerns or other children's health concerns, contact the Children's Clinic at (670) 234-8951, or the Maternal, Infant, Child, and Adolescent (MICAH) Program at (670) 236-8709. ***(CHCC)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Sweet, overdue victory for US women's soccer

America didn't invent soccer, but this nation has taken global leadership in making the world's game truly equitable.

A May 18 collective bargaining deal solidified an arrangement a long time coming: equal pay for the men's and women's national soccer teams. It is staggering to contemplate how slow this progress has been. The Women's World Cup—which the U.S. Women's National Team has won four times—has been a global event since 1991.

Yet, three decades later, it still took protracted negotiations and a lawsuit, settled in February, for America to become the first nation to equalize pay for its international soccer representatives. The movement needs to go global. Women's World Cup teams competed in 2019 for shares of $30 million—less than 8% of the $400 million that constituted the pot in the 2018 men's tournament.

The U.S. women won the 2019 Women's World Cup. For that, players took home $110,000 bonuses, about $300,000 less than members of the men's team would have made had they won a men's World Cup title in 2018. The new landmark agreement will pool FIFA's unequal payouts so each player on a U.S. World Cup team, men's or women's, gets an equal share of the collective prize money. Extra bonuses for wins have also been equalized between teams, ending the upside-down reality where the women's side was given short shrift despite winning more. About time.

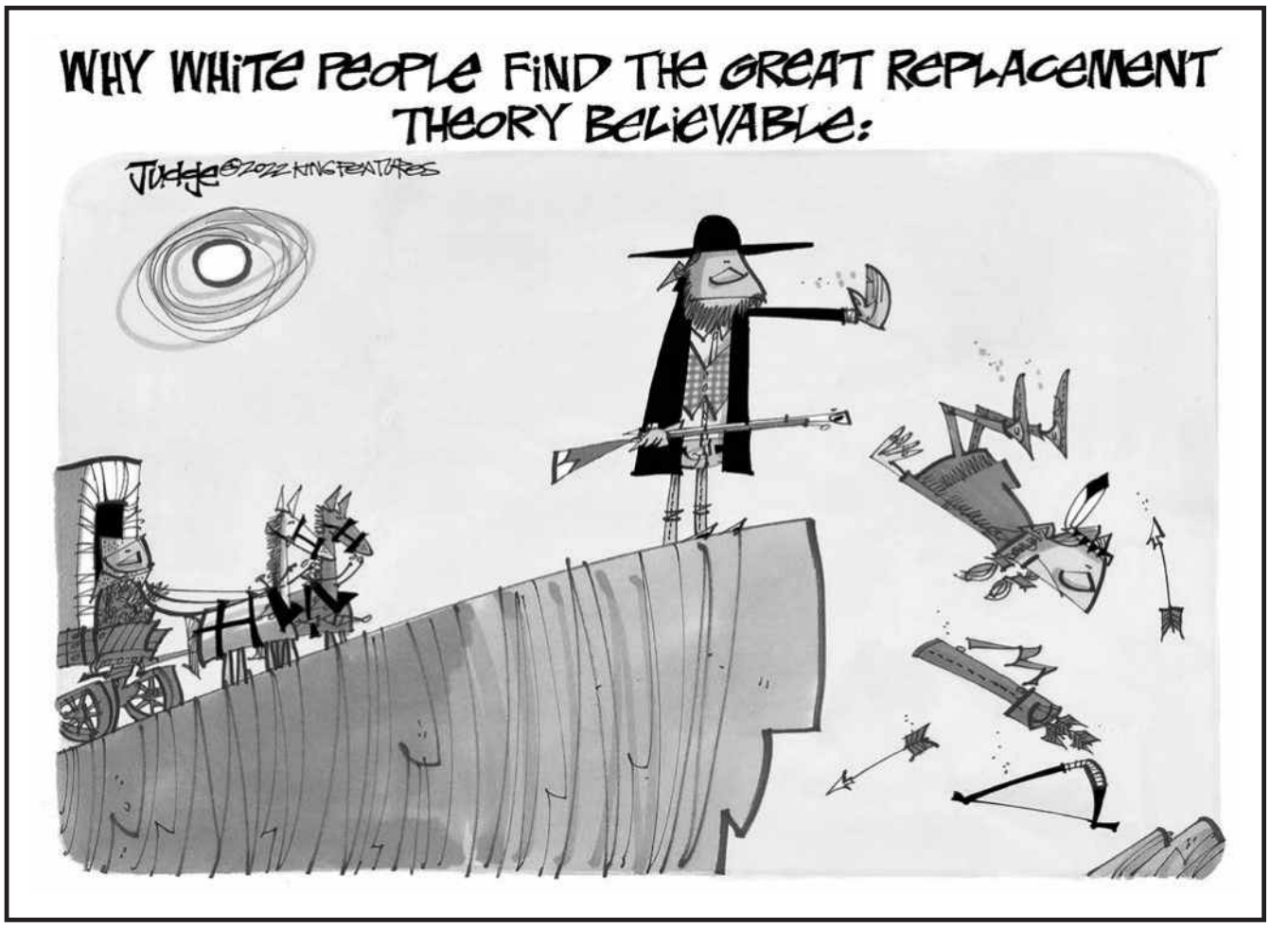
"It's just a little bit surreal," star winger and Seattleite Megan Rapinoe told The Philadelphia Inquirer. Who could blame her for needing a moment to adjust to such a historic correction?

Another well-considered element of the bargain between U.S. Soccer and the respective national teams: the men's team will have federation-provided child care, as the women's team has for 25 years.

These significant strides toward ending senseless and outdated gender biases are years overdue. However, they arrive just in time to resonate powerfully as American soccer takes another leap forward in prominence.

In 2026, stadiums across the U.S.—potentially including Lumen Field—will host men's World Cup games, which have not been played on American soil since 1994. The host role will put a powerful spotlight on America's advance in soccer gender equity; co-hosts Canada and Mexico—and the rest of the soccer, football and fútbol world—should follow suit.

(c) 2022 *The Seattle Times*



True leaders practice the art of persuasion. Others tweet out trash talk

By LYNN SCHMIDT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

There is something that has been sorely missing in the United States in the last decade—soaring rhetoric. We are lacking leaders who, like Abraham Lincoln, appeal to our better angels through their ability to craft rhetoric that resonates in people's hearts and minds.

Rhetoric appeals to people's emotions and logic to persuade, motivate, or inform. In the fourth century B.C., Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote "The Art of Rhetoric," in which he defined rhetoric as the "ability to discover the available means of persuasion."

Aristotle outlined three modes of persuasion, each appealing to its audience in different ways: logos, ethos and pathos. Logos is the appeal to logic and reason. It relies on the content of the message, including data and facts, to support its claims. Ethos relies on the reputation of the speaker. The speaker or writer must be notable or a known authority, which establishes credibility. Pathos establishes an emotional connection to the audience. Speakers or writers who use all three modes of persuasion are usually the most successful.

The study of rhetoric developed alongside the development of the ideas around democracy in fifth-century Athens. Some American leaders have been effective in reminding us that democracy and rhetoric go hand in hand. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech is a good example.

Our two most recent presidents certainly don't have that flair. President Donald Trump, while he may have had the authority and the emotional connection to a segment of the American electorate, lacked logic and reason. Trump also actively worked to erode trust in our democratic institutions. President Joe Biden has never been an eloquent speaker. And while he has endless amounts of empathy, he falls short on elevating the American people to rise to the challenges we face. After Trump's refusal to peacefully transfer the power of the presidency, a significant percentage of the population still refuses to give Biden the credibility he deserves.

The world's stage has provided us with an example of a modern-day champion of freedom, delivered with a healthy dose of oratory. That leader is Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has called on his citizens and the world to join the fight for Ukrainian sovereignty. Zelenskyy tapped into his inner Churchill when addressing the U.K.'s House of Commons, saying, "We shall fight in the woods, in the fields, on the beaches, in the cities and villages, in the streets, we shall fight in the hills." Zelenskyy declared to the U.S. Congress, "Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace."

Each year, Freedom House releases its "Freedom in the World" report. This year, the report warns that U.S. democracy is in decline—as it has been for the past decade. The report says that "Congress and the Biden administration must make it a priority to strengthen our institutions, restore civic norms, and uphold the promise of universal liberty on which our nation was founded."

America needs to find leaders who can inspire us in this mission. But perhaps we already found her. A little over a year ago, Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., spoke on the House floor the night before she was removed from her leadership position within the Republican Party, reminding members of their oaths "to support and defend the Constitution, if we recognize threats to freedom when they arise."

She concluded: "Ultimately, this is at the heart of what our oath requires: that we love our country more. That we love her so much we will stand above politics to defend her. That we will do everything in our power to protect our Constitution and our freedom—paid for by the blood of so many. We must love her so much we will never yield in her defense. That is our duty."

Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., who took over Cheney's position as the party's third-ranking member, tweeted on Friday: "The White House, House Dems, & usual pedo grifters are so out of touch with the American people."

It's hard to imagine a starker contrast between women who held the same position of Republican leadership. Cheney loves America so much that she calls us to rise above politics to protect the country. Stefanik, on the other hand, is championing division—even to the point of calling Democrats pedophiles.

America needs to find leaders who are skilled at the art of rhetoric while promoting our democratic principles, and not just divisively communicating via social media or cable news clips.

For naysayers who contend that America is too polarized to listen, I suggest reading any of Lincoln's speeches. Lincoln showed us the way with his words and deeds.

True leaders speak to all of us, as one country, as one people, as Americans—always reminding us of what that means.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Can we learn how to understand each other while we disagree over pandemic issues?

By ADAM CIFU
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Adam Cifu is a professor of medicine at the University of Chicago.

I recently spoke with a colleague in another city about how we would adjust our personal behaviors as COVID-19 cases rise once again. I have great respect for this physician, and both of us are well versed in the medical literature concerning COVID-19 and dedicated to the health of our patients and community and have cared for patients throughout the pandemic. But we disagreed on many of the issues we discussed. Our conversation illustrated that disagreements exist not only among members of the public but also among physicians, a group that we assume would be of like mind when it comes to science. In a recent poll, physicians, as well as nurses, were split roughly in half on whether they would continue to wear masks regularly at work.

Many of us have had COVID-19 debates over the last two years. Discussions about vaccination, vaccine mandates, masking and school closings, whether on social media, at school board meetings, in doctors' offices or in our homes, have been contentious.

As we look back on the pandemic—and forward to future waves or other epidemics—is there a way to find understanding in our disagreements? Would better understanding enable more productive discourse? Can we advance our understanding of risk assessment and decision-making as much as we have advanced our understanding of vaccine science and immunology?

I concentrate here only on disagreements between people and between professionals who are knowledgeable about the COVID-19 scientific literature and dedicated to minimizing the burden wrought by the pandemic. There are those, inside and outside the scientific community, who render dubious opinions to the public. At this point in the pandemic, nobody can seriously argue that older, higher-risk people should not receive a three-shot series of one of the mRNA vaccines. But it is also clear that masking outdoors is unnecessary because the risk of contracting COVID-19 outdoors is low.

Drs. Jerome Groopman and Pamela Hartzband have suggested that we all have a "medical mind," an individual approach to weighing the risks and benefits of treatments. They suggest that we split into groups of minimalists and maximalists, as well as believers and doubters. J. Eric Oliver and Thomas J. Wood, two political scientists, have suggested similar dichotomies endemic to our culture, seeing us as aligned as either rationalists or intuitionists. Our experience with COVID-19 has taught us that well-informed and well-intentioned people will disagree based on their assumptions about health and health care and how they weigh risk.

On one side of disagreements over the pandemic are "COVID optimists," who now see the virus as a relatively minor threat. They foresee progressively smaller, less severe waves of disease as our immunity handles SARS-CoV-2 like it does all coronaviruses—imperfectly and impermanently but competently enough. The optimists concentrate on the fact that the large majority of vaccinated and previously infected people will experience COVID-19 as a mild upper respiratory infection. While they acknowledge that the disease can still be deadly, they argue that we must now live with an unavoidable infectious disease, like humankind has done for most of its history.

On the other side are the "COVID pessimists," those concerned that this highly (and increasingly) transmissible virus will cause recurrent waves of increasing hospitalizations and deaths. The pessimists worry that long COVID-19 is not a prolonged phase of recovery, like we see with other infections, but a new, particularly disabling condition. The pessimists believe that we should continue to employ all the tools at hand, pharmacologic and otherwise, to suppress the activity and evolution of the virus.

Even the same data can be read differently by the two groups. The effect of our treatments and preventions can be viewed as highly effective when viewed in relative terms, such as the originally reported mRNA vaccine efficacy of 95%. The vaccine, however, seems less effective in absolute terms. If the infection fatality rate of COVID is 0.25%, a rough estimate, a vaccine that is 95% effective produces only a 0.24% absolute improvement in death rates, benefiting only 1 in every 425 people vaccinated. Two people, reading the same data but with different perspectives, might come to very different conclusions.

To have productive discussions about COVID-19, whether between physicians debating recommendations or family members discussing whether to mask in a certain situation, we might recommend two steps. First, agree on the facts. We are, fortunately, at a place in the pandemic in which we can agree, at least in a general sense, on many things that were unknown two years ago. We have numbers for vaccine efficacy, the maximum efficacy of masking and the risk of severe illness for various age groups.

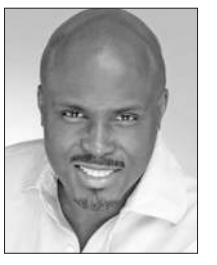
Next, place yourselves along the spectrum of pessimism or optimism. How people situate themselves unmasks personal values and risk tolerance, things that should be accepted rather than debated. Recognizing this should allow people to, at least, agreeably disagree.

Like it or not, this pandemic will continue to shape our lives and the practice of medicine. This emergency has catalyzed enormous advances in the biological sciences, with millions of lives saved.

What is not clear is if we have learned the same lessons in bias and communication. Refreshing our knowledge of communication and complex decision-making is critical because we can all agree that the next virus is waiting.

Buffalo shooting illustrates the persistence of white supremacy

By SOLOMON JONES
The Philadelphia Inquirer



I have often disagreed with the notion that racism is a permanent fixture in American society. I believe too strongly in humanity's ability to change, to adapt, to dream. I believed that our country could someday become a semblance of the utopia it often claims to be.

Then I learned that 18-year-old Payton Gendron had walked into a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, and killed 10 people—eight of them Black—while wounding three others. I learned that Gendron had meticulously planned his actions after being indoctrinated by online racist conspiracy theories. I learned that there will always be someone else to take up the mantle of white supremacy. I learned, while watching a young man sacrifice years of freedom in the service of bigotry, that racism is indeed permanent.

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

People gather outside a Tops market embrace on Sunday, May 15, 2022, in Buffalo, New York. A gunman opened fire at the store Saturday, killing 10 people. Suspect Payton Gendron was taken into custody and charged with first-degree murder.

Not because past generations have created systems that are meant to keep Black people in a condition as close to slavery as possible. And not because there is a conscious effort to keep the truth about America's history of racism out of schools.

Racism is permanent because present and future generations of white supremacists are being taught to hate. And we're not doing nearly enough to combat that toxic messaging.

Dylann Roof killed nine Black people at a Bible study. The arresting officers clothed the admitted white supremacist in a bulletproof vest and gave him a meal from Burger King before taking him to jail. Kyle Rittenhouse brought a semi-automatic rifle to a Black Lives Matter protest, claiming he was there to protect property. That night, he killed two white men who dared to stand up for Black lives. Then he walked past the cops carrying the rifle that he used. A jury found him not guilty at trial.

Payton Gendron studied such cases. Then he decided, based on the racist garbage he read on the internet, to buy a gun and ammunition, dress in tactical gear, drive 200 miles to Buffalo, conduct surveillance on a store, and kill as many Black people as he could.

Racism is permanent because the faded photographs of century-old lynchings have been replaced by videotaped gunshots that are livestreamed on Twitch. That is how Gendron chose to document his actions. But he didn't stop there. He laid the foundation for his cowardly act of terrorism with a 180-page diatribe that enumerated the ways in which he hates Black people. Of course, all these things are alleged, just as it is alleged that Gendron bragged to the arresting officers about the racism that drove him to kill.

Gendron was taught to be racist. And his lessons were undergirded by a right-wing conspiracy theory known as the great replacement. In some circles, white nationalists teach that Jews are promoting immigration and pushing interracial marriage to suppress the white population. In Europe, replacement theory falsely blames top politicians for the growth in the Muslim population. On the internet, where Gendron was exposed to such conspiracies, evil grows in the dark.

Gendron, who scrawled the N-word on the barrel of his rifle to punctuate his hatred, is just the latest young white racist to target African Americans in an armed act of terrorism. And he will not be the last. Because racism is permanent.

The question now is simply this: What, if anything, can we do about it?

President Joe Biden visited Buffalo in the wake of the shooting, and rightly called white supremacy a poison. "In America, evil will not win, I promise you. Hate will not prevail," he said. "White supremacy will not have the last word."

Biden is right, but if the president wants to protect Black lives, he should do everything possible to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. He should stake his political career on passing federal voting rights legislation. He should do what he can to bring change.

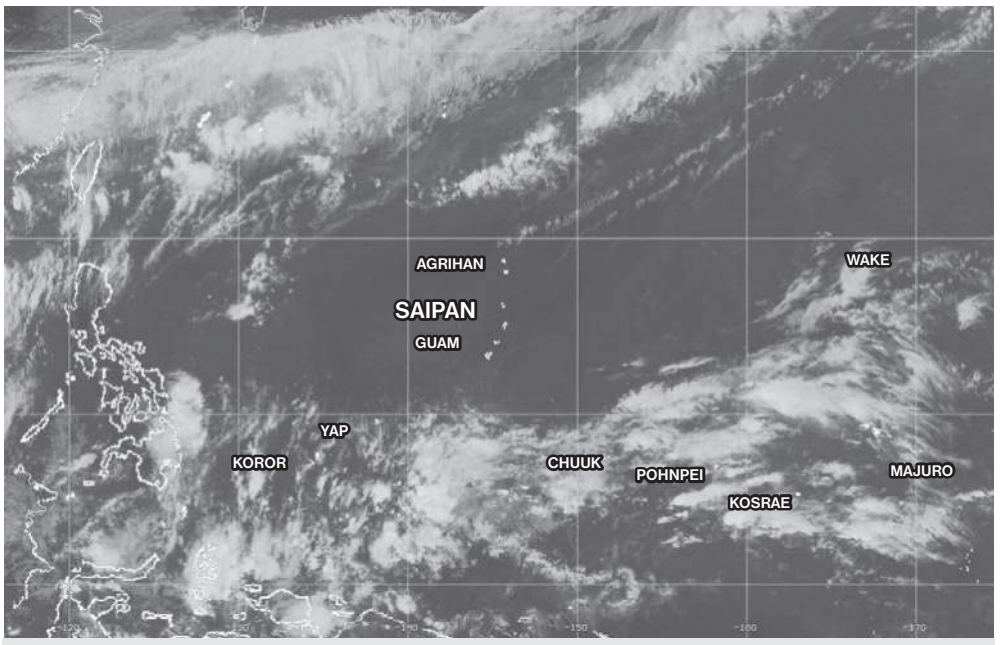
Because even if racism in America is permanent, if we fight against it, racism no longer has to be prevalent.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 14 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 7 to 9 mph.	Mostly cloudy, with Scattered showers.	Partly cloudy, with Isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.
88° 75°	88° 75°	88° 75°	90° 75°	85° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:7:46 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters, mainly to the southeast. Satellite shows an upper- level low to the east of the Marianas. The buoys reveal combined seas of a chaotic 2 to 4 feet from a range of directions from northeast to southeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	27 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29/ 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:41 PM
Thursday	05:46 AM	18:41 PM
Friday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Saturday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Sunday	05:45 AM	18:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	02:10	14:22 PM	-
Thursday	02:46	15:12 PM	-
Friday	03:23	16:01 PM	-
Saturday	03:59	16:51 PM	-
Sunday	03:58	07:42 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	17 / 11 °F
Beijing	Sunny	30 / 15 °F
Hong Kong	AM Thunderstorm	28 / 25 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	29 / 21 °F
London	PM Showers	17 / 11 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	25 / 16 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	34 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	19 / 13 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	21 / 13 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	27 / 18 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	21 / 13 °F
Busan	Mostly Sunny	24 / 18 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	30 / 19 °F
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	27 / 19 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	22 / 11 °F
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	27 / 14 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	26 / 17 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	22 / 14 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:14 AM	High Tide	2.06
10:51 AM	Low Tide	0.81
4:19 PM	High Tide	1.60
10:16 PM	Low Tide	0.69

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 16, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Monday & Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Monday & Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

CK's Last Shot Bar turns one

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After a year of operations, the Last Shot Bar in Chalan Kanoa beside the Surfrider Resort Hotel remains a laidback bar that will always be a welcoming place to anyone who just wants to enjoy a drink or two, share a conversation and, if you are game, play a round of darts, billiards, or other games that remind you there is always time to play.

Last Shot Bar turned 1 last April 23 and the journey has been surreal, according to owner Travis Jones.

"After one year of being open here on Saipan, I would say that one of the most insightful things that others could learn from my experience is that this has to be a labor of love and that it is definitely not about the money. Of course, we need the money to come in to stay open but we have to be passionate about what and why we do things the way we do and that happy customers are our best form of advertisement," he said.

He said that Last Shot Bar celebrated its first anniversary by inviting the public to enjoy Happy Hour pricing and enjoy the music of Marvin De Leon Guerrero from 9pm to midnight. An estimated 90 to 100 people attended the occasion.

Jones has worked as a contractor in different parts of the world and has always dreamed of retiring on a beautiful island and operating a bar where everybody can just relax and unwind. "…I have been asked many times how I work my full-time day job and spend as much time after hours and weekends working at the bar and my answer to them always is, 'I must really love this place!'" he said.

Jones came to Saipan two years ago and has turned his dream into the Last Shot Bar. "I have no intention of leaving Saipan as I love this island and all of its residents that truly have become an extended family that I was not expecting at all. …My commitment to this community remains the same as when we first opened our door, which was to provide a clean, safe atmosphere where virtually anyone can come in and feel like they belong there as part of our extended family."

Jones believes that one of the biggest things that keeps his customers coming back—even through the pandemic—is Last Shot Bar's 100% open air concept. That's on top of its two dart boards, two pool tables, two outdoor shuffleboard courts, cornhole, and an oversized Jenga.

"We are also working on the drink pong table and are waiting for the arrival of an oversized Kinect 4. Our idea of no TVs to keep our customers active and playing our many games has proven to be very effective," he added.

He said they are also working with local distributors on new events and is starting back up with bands and working on open mic nights "where any up and coming musicians can come in and play whenever they would like."

Opening right at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic was a calculated risk, according to Jones. "I figured if we could survive whatever this actually turned out to be, we could survive anything. Our business was reasonably steady from April through October, then was hit very hard with the big push to limit hours again right before Halloween. Business fell by roughly 30% to 40%. We were having bands every one to two weeks but had to stop that once our crowds slowed to the point we could no longer justify the cost of the bands," he said.

Once the travel and local restrictions were lifted, Jones said it was like the floodgates opened up. "We are seeing our party bookings steadily rise and new customers coming to the bar at least weekly, if not daily. Our sales are continuing to rise monthly, along with our team's overall excitement of watching this business finally take flight," he added.

Last Shot Bar accepts both public and private parties. His suggestion to customers: For a party of 30 people or fewer, keep the bar open to the public to keep your party costs as low as possible.

"We let parties of 50 or more know that if they want to shut the bar for a private affair, we are happy to do so from 5pm to 10pm, with a minimum bar tab as the cost of the event space."

So far, their largest event to date has been roughly 100 people "but our occupancy is now at 200 people. Our thought is that we can certainly handle parties of 150 fairly comfortably," Jones said.

"Not having food was a decision I had made early on and I still stand by today. Our customers have come to enjoy being able to either bring in whatever they would like or order from one of the several restaurants that surround us. We are very happy when other local restaurants are also able to gain business from our customers," Jones added.

After a year, comments from old and new customers still surprises Jones. "I think the most memorable comments are the new customers entering the bar for the first time. Most are generally in shock to see our over 6,000 square foot facility so brightly painted, with several activities in sight

"We wouldn't be here unless you enjoy being here with us. We have a huge amount of pride that local customers of all ages have decided to make our southside Last Shot Bar their bar of choice. We remain committed to our locals by keeping our prices competitive and supporting in many other ways. Last Shot Bar is happy to be sponsoring six dart teams and three pool teams this upcoming season. My message to our staff is the same as it always has been: Work hard, have fun, and treat this place like it is your own because someday it may very well be that!"

Last Shot Bar is open Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm to 2am, but starting June, operations will be Monday to Saturday, from 5pm to 2am. For more information, call (670)588-SHOT (7468).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last Shot Bar in Chalan Kanoa is a place for anyone who wants to relax and unwind.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Starting June, Last Shot Bar will be open from Monday to Saturday, 5pm to 2am.

Pfizer says 3 COVID shots protect children under 5

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Three doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine offer strong protection for children younger than 5, the company announced Monday, another step toward shots for the littlest kids possibly beginning in early summer.

Pfizer plans to submit the findings to U.S. regulators later this week. The Food and Drug Administration already is evaluating an application by rival Moderna to offer two-dose vaccinations to tots—and set June 15 as a tentative date for its independent scientific advisers to publicly debate the data from one or both companies.

The news comes after months of anxious waiting by parents desperate to vaccinate their babies, toddlers and preschoolers, especially as COVID-19 cases once again are rising. The 18 million youngsters under 5 are the only group in the U.S. not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

Pfizer has had a bumpy time figuring out its approach. It aims to give tots an extra low dose—just one-tenth of the amount adults receive—but discovered during its trial that two shots didn't seem quite strong enough for preschoolers. So researchers gave a third shot to more than 1,600 youngsters—from age 6 months to 4 years—during the winter surge of the omicron variant.

In a press release, Pfizer and its partner BioNTech said the extra shot did the trick, revving up the children's levels of virus-fighting antibodies enough to meet FDA criteria for emergency use of the vaccine with no safety problems.

Starbucks leaving Russian market, shutting 130 stores

Starbucks is pulling out of the Russian market.

In a memo to employees Monday, the Seattle coffee giant said it decided to close its 130 stores and no longer have a brand presence in Russia. Starbucks said it will continue to pay its nearly 2,000 Russian employees for six months and help them transition to new jobs.

Starbucks' move follows McDonald's exit from the Russian market last week. McDonald's is selling its stores—which are almost all owned by the company—to an existing Russian franchisee. The stores won't be allowed to use McDonald's name or menu.

Starbucks' stores are owned and operated by Alshaya Group, a Kuwait-based franchise operator. A spokesperson for Alshaya referred questions to Starbucks on Monday.

Starbucks entered the Russian market in 2007. In early March, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Starbucks announced that it would keep its Russian stores open but donate any profits to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine.

But a few days later—after Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, McDonald's and others temporarily halted their business in Russia—Starbucks changed course and temporarily closed its Russian stores.

"Through this dynamic situation, we will continue to make decisions that are true to our mission and values and communicate with transparency," then Starbucks Corp. CEO Kevin Johnson wrote in a message to employees. ***(AP)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Facebook, Instagram to reveal more on how ads target users

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facebook parent Meta said it will start publicly providing more details about how advertisers target people with political ads just months ahead of the U.S. midterm elections. The announcement follows years of criticism that the social media platforms withhold too much information about how campaigns, special interest groups and politicians use the platform to target small pockets of people with polarizing, divisive or misleading messages. Meta, which also owns Instagram, said it will start releasing details in July about the demographics and interests of audiences who are targeted with ads that run on its two primary social networks. The company will also share how much advertisers spent in an effort to target people in certain states.

Amazon to sublease warehouses as online shopping slows

Amazon is planning to sublease some of its warehouse space now that the pandemic-fueled surge in online shopping, which helped the e-commerce giant rake in soaring profits in the past two years, has eased. Subleasing allows the company to "relieve the financial obligations associated with an existing building that no longer meets" its needs, Amazon spokesperson Alisa Carroll said. Carroll didn't disclose how much space the company plans to sublet. But citing anonymous sources, Bloomberg News and The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that the retailer would sublease at least 10 million square feet of space and could end more of its leases in states including New York, New Jersey and California. ***(AP)***

Calif. parents could soon sue for social media addiction

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California could soon hold social media companies responsible for harming children who have become addicted to their products, permitting parents to sue platforms like Instagram and TikTok for up to $25,000 per violation under a bill that passed the state Assembly on Monday. The bill defines "addiction" as kids under 18 who are both harmed—either physically, mentally, emotionally, developmentally or materially—and who want to stop or reduce how much time they spend on social media but they can't because they are preoccupied or obsessed with it. Business groups have warned that if the bill passes, social media companies would most likely cease operations for children in California rather than face the legal risk. The proposal would only apply to social media companies that had at least $100 million in gross revenue in the past year, appearing to take aim at social media giants like Facebook and others that dominate the marketplace.

Nation

Biden: Leaders navigating 'dark hour' after Ukraine invasion

TOKYO (AP)—President Joe Biden told fellow Indo-Pacific leaders assembled for a four-country summit Tuesday that they were navigating "a dark hour in our shared history" due to Russia's brutal war on Ukraine and he urged the group to make greater effort to stop Vladimir Putin's aggression.

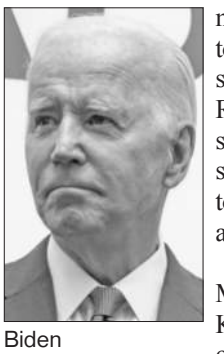
"This is more than just a European issue. It's a global issue," Biden said as the "Quad" summit with Japan, Australia and India got under way.

While the president did not directly call out any countries, his message appeared to be pointed, at least in part, at Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with whom differences persist over how to respond to the Russian invasion.

Unlike other Quad countries and nearly every other U.S. ally, India has not imposed sanctions or even condemned Russia, its biggest supplier of military hardware.

With Modi sitting nearby, Biden made the case that the world has a shared responsibility to do something to assist Ukrainian resistance against Russia's aggression.

"We're navigating a dark hour in our shared history," he said. "The Russian brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine has triggered a humanitarian catastrophe and innocent civilians have been killed in the streets and millions of refugees are internally displaced as well as in exile."


Biden

"The world has to deal with it and we are," he added.

The White House has been effusive in its praise of several Pacific countries, including Japan, Singapore and South Korea, for stepping up to hit Russia with tough sanctions and export bans while offering humanitarian and military assistance to Kyiv.

For several of the bigger Asian powers, the invasion has been seen as a crucial moment for the world to demonstrate by a strong response to Russia that China should not try to seize contested territory through military action.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, taking note of Russia's aggression in Ukraine, told the other leaders: "We cannot let the same thing happen in the Indo-Pacific region."

The White House has been disappointed with the relative silence of India, the world's biggest democracy.

WILDFIRE SEASON

SATELLITE IMAGE ©2022 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES VIA AP, FILE

This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows the active fire lines of the Hermits Peak wildfire, in Las Vegas, N.M., May 11, 2022. More than 5,000 firefighters are battling multiple wildland blazes in dry, windy weather across the Southwest. Evacuation orders remained in place Thursday, May 19, 2022, for residents near fires in Texas, Colorado and New Mexico.

AP-NORC poll: Economy grows as priority on Russia response

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are becoming less supportive of punishing Russia for launching its invasion of Ukraine if it comes at the expense of the U.S. economy, a sign of rising anxiety over inflation and other challenges, according to a new poll.

While broad support for U.S. sanctions has not faltered, the balance of opinion on prioritizing sanctions over the economy has shifted, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Now 45% of U.S. adults say the nation's bigger priority should be sanctioning Russia as effectively as possible, while slightly more—51%—say it should be limiting damage to the U.S. economy.

In April, those figures were exactly reversed. In March, shortly after Russia attacked Ukraine, a clear majority—55%—said the bigger priority should be sanctioning Russia as effectively as possible.

The shifts in opinion reflect how rising prices are biting into American households—surging costs for gas, groceries, and other commodities have strained budgets for millions of people—and perhaps limiting their willingness to support Ukraine financially. That may be a troubling sign for President Joe Biden, who on Saturday approved an additional $40 billion in funding to help Ukraine including both weapons and financial assistance. The poll shows low faith in him to handle the situation, and an overall approval rating that hit the lowest point of his presidency.

Pentagon says more high-tech weapons are going to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly 50 defense leaders from around the world met Monday and agreed to send more advanced weapons to Ukraine, including a Harpoon launcher and missiles to protect its coast, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters.

And Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that "low-level" discussion is underway on how the U.S. may need to adjust its training of Ukrainian forces and on whether some U.S. troops should be based in Ukraine.

The U.S. withdrew its few troops in Ukraine before the war and has no plans to send in combat forces. Milley's comments left open the possibility troops could return for embassy security or another non-combat role.

The U.S. embassy in Kyiv has partially reopened and is staffing up again, and there have been questions about whether the U.S. will send a Marine security force back in to help protect the embassy or if other options should be considered.

Asked if U.S. special operations forces may go into Ukraine, which officials have insisted they are not doing yet, Milley said that "any reintroduction of U.S. forces into Ukraine would require a presidential decision. So we're a ways away from anything like that."

Speaking to Pentagon reporters, Austin declined to say if the U.S. will send Ukraine high-tech mobile rocket launchers, which it has requested. But Austin said that some 20 nations announced Monday that they will send new packages of security assistance to Ukraine, as its war with Russia reaches the three-month mark.

ACROSS THE NATION

4 people fall off California cliff; 1 dead and 2 badly hurt

PALOS VERDES ESTATES, Calif. (AP)—Four people fell off a Southern California ocean cliff before dawn Monday and a man was killed and two women were critically injured, authorities said. The fourth person, a man who suffered minor injuries, managed to climb back up from the beach below and alert a passing officer at about 4:30 a.m., said Capt. Steve Barber of the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department. A 25-year-old man from Los Angeles died at the scene, Barber said. Two women were airlifted from the beach and each hospitalized in critical condition, he said. TV news helicopters showed a Los Angeles County Fire Department helicopter hoisting one of the victims to a rescue vehicle at the top of the cliff. Police were investigating the event as an accident, Barber said.

Californians could see mandatory water cuts amid drought

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California Gov. Gavin Newsom threatened Monday to impose mandatory water restrictions if residents don't use less on their own as a drought drags on and the hotter summer months approach. Newsom raised that possibility in a meeting with representatives from water agencies that supply major cities including Los Angeles, San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Democratic governor has avoided issuing sweeping, mandatory cuts in water use and instead favored giving local water agencies power to set rules for water use in the cities and towns they supply. January through March typically is when most of California's annual rain and snow falls, but this year those months were the driest in at least a century. Despite calls for conservation, the state's water use went up dramatically in March—19% compared to the same month in 2020—and now Newsom is considering changing his approach.

Woman sought in death of professional cyclist in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Police were searching Monday for a woman suspected in the fatal shooting of a professional cyclist at an Austin home. The body of Anna Moriah "Mo" Wilson, 25, was found May 11, and Austin police issued a murder warrant for Kaitlin Marie Armstrong, 34, last week. The warrant affidavit says there was a possible romantic triangle involving Armstrong, Wilson and Colin Strickland, another professional cyclist who had been Armstrong's longtime boyfriend. The affidavit says Strickland took up with Wilson after he and Armstrong split last October but that Strickland and Armstrong had subsequently reconciled. Strickland has cooperated with investigators and is not a suspect. Wilson, whose family says she recently decided to move from San Francisco back to her Vermont roots, was in Austin for a race in Hico, which is about 120 miles (190 kilometers) north.

Indiana pastor admits 'adultery'; woman says she was a teen

WARSAW, Ind. (AP)—A church pastor told his Indiana congregation that he had committed "adultery" about 20 years ago, a disclosure that was followed moments later by a woman who stepped forward and said she was victimized by him when she was 16 years old. The remarks were recorded on video Sunday at New Life Christian Church and World Outreach in Warsaw and posted on Facebook. The Kosciusko County prosecutor's office is investigating, WANE-TV reported. Prosecutor Daniel Hampton didn't immediately return a message Monday seeking comment from The Associated Press. Pastor John Lowe II told his congregation: "I committed adultery." "It was nearly 20 years ago," he said. "It continued far too long. It involved one person and there's been no other. I have no defense. ... I sinned. I need to say that and you deserve to hear it."

Asia

DUTERTE HITS PUTIN

‘I kill criminals, not kids, elders’

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Outgoing Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sharply criticized Russian leader Vladimir Putin for the killings of innocent civilians in Ukraine, saying while the two of them have been tagged as killers, “I kill criminals, I don’t kill children and the elderly.”

Duterte, who openly calls Putin an idol and a friend, voiced his rebuke for the first time over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in remarks aired Tuesday where he blamed the three-month old war for the spike in global oil prices that has battered many countries, including the Philippines.

While stressing he was not condemning the Russian president, Duterte disagreed with Putin’s labeling of the invasion as a “special military operation,” and said it was really a full-scale war waged against “a sovereign nation.”

“Many say that Putin and I are both killers. I’ve long told you Filipinos that I really kill. But I kill criminals, I don’t kill children and the elderly,” Duterte said in a televised weekly meeting with key Cabinet officials. “We’re in two different worlds.”

Duterte, who steps down on June 30 when his turbulent six-year term ends, has presided over a brutal anti-drugs crackdown that has left more than 6,000 mostly petty suspects dead. Human rights groups have cited a much higher casualty and say innocent people, including children, have been killed in the campaign that Duterte vows to continue up to his last day in office.

The unprecedentedly massive drug campaign killings have sparked an investigation by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity. Duterte has said he expects to face more lawsuits arising from the drug deaths when his presidency ends.

Duterte and his police officials have denied sanctioning extrajudicial killings in the campaign against illegal drugs but has openly threatened drug suspects with death and made an unsuccessful attempt to reimpose the death penalty in the largest Roman Catholic nation in Asia to deter drug dealers and other criminals.

When he took office in 2016, he reached out to Russia and China for trade and investment and to expand military cooperation while often criticizing the security policies of Washington, Manila’s longtime treaty ally.

He visited Russia twice in 2017 and 2019 to meet Putin but cut short his first visit after Islamic State group-aligned militants laid siege on the southern Philippine city of Marawi while he was away with his defense secretary and military chief of staff.

More than a week after Russian forces laid siege on Ukraine, the Philippines voted in favor of a U.N. General Assembly resolution condemning the Russian invasion. The Philippines appealed for the protection of civilians and public infrastructure in Ukraine, although Duterte held back from strongly criticizing Putin and said he would remain neutral in a conflict that could potentially lead to the use of nuclear weapons and spark WWIII.

South Asia heat wave a ‘sign of things to come’

NEW DELHI (AP)—The devastating heat wave that has baked India and Pakistan in recent months was made more likely by climate change and is a glimpse of the region’s future, international scientists said in a study released Monday.

The World Weather Attribution group analyzed historical weather data that suggested early, long heat waves that impact a massive geographical area are rare, once-a-century events. But the current level of global warming, caused by human-caused climate change, has made those heat waves 30 times more likely.

If global heating increases to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) more than pre-industrial levels, then heat waves like this could occur twice in a century and up to once every five years, said Arpita Mondal, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai, who was part of the study.

“This is a sign of things to come,” Mondal said.

The results are conservative: An analysis published last week by the United Kingdom’s Meteorological Office said the heat wave was probably made 100 times more likely by climate change, with such scorching temperatures likely to reoccur every three years.

The World Weather Attribution analysis is different as it is trying to calculate how specific aspects of the heat wave, such as the length and the region impacted, were made more likely by global warming. “The real result is probably somewhere between ours and the (U.K.) Met Office result for how much climate change increased this event,” said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at the Imperial College of London, who was also a part of the study.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India ships rice, other essentials to crisis-hit Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka received a first consignment of a $16 million humanitarian aid package from neighboring India to help mitigate severe shortages caused by the country’s worst economic crisis in recent memory. Gopal Baglay, the Indian envoy to Sri Lanka, delivered the donation from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka’s Foreign Minister Gamini Peiris late Sunday. The goods, worth $5.6 million, include rice, milk powder and essential medicines. They will be distributed among vulnerable families in different parts of the country, the Indian Embassy said in a statement. Sri Lanka is near bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas to toilet paper and matchsticks. For months, people have been forced to stay in long lines to buy the limited stocks.

Airbnb ends rentals in China to focus on outbound tourists

BEIJING (AP)—Airbnb Inc. announced Tuesday it will stop representing short-term rental properties in China and focus its business in the country on serving Chinese tourists looking for lodgings abroad. Airbnb joins a series of foreign internet companies including Yahoo Inc. and eBay Inc. that pulled out of China after running into fierce local competition and regulatory barriers. “We have made the difficult decision to refocus our efforts in China on outbound travel and suspend our homes and Experiences of Hosts in China, starting from July 30, 2022,” said the chief strategy officer of Airbnb China, Nathan Blecharczyk, in a statement on its social media account.

World

FOR KILLING A UKRAINIAN CIVILIAN

Russian soldier gets life term

AP

Russian Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin listens to his translator during a court hearing in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, May 23, 2022.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A Ukrainian court sentenced a captured Russian soldier to the maximum penalty of life in prison for killing a civilian and the Kremlin hinted that it may put on trial some of the fighters who surrendered at Mariupol’s steelworks.

Meanwhile, in a rare public expression of opposition to the war from the ranks of the Russian elite, a veteran Kremlin diplomat resigned and sent a scathing letter Monday to foreign colleagues in which he said of the invasion, “Never have I been so ashamed of my country as on Feb. 24.”

Also, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for “maximum” sanctions against Russia in a video address to world leaders and executives at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Separately, he revealed one of the deadliest single strikes of the war, a missile attack on a village near Kyiv that killed almost 90 people.

And on the battlefield, heavy fighting raged in the Donbas in the east, where Moscow’s forces have stepped up their bombardment. Cities not under Russian control were constantly shelled, and one Ukrainian official said Russian forces targeted civilians trying to flee.

In the first of what could be a multitude of war crimes trials held by Ukraine, Russian Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin, 21, was sentenced for the killing of a 62-year-old man who was shot in the head in a village in the northeastern Sumy region in the opening days of the war.

Shishimarin, a member of a tank unit, had claimed he was following orders, and he apologized to the man’s widow in court.

WORLD BRIEFS

Death toll reaches 10 in building collapse in southwest Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The death toll from the collapse of a commercial building still under construction in southwestern Iran reached 10 on Tuesday, after more bodies were retrieved from the rubble in the city of Abadan, Iranian media reported. Dozens were trapped when the 10-story Metropol building toppled on Monday, burying shops and even some cars in the surrounding streets. Initially, five were reported killed but the death toll doubled a day later. At least 39 people were injured, most of them lightly. State TV said rescue efforts were still underway Tuesday and that dozens had been pulled to safety. An investigation was launched as to why the building on Amir Kabir Street collapsed during a sandstorm. The owner of the building as well as the project manager of the construction company that built it were arrested Monday.

5 migrants, including child, drown in 2 Mexico accidents

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Three Honduran migrants drowned off Mexico’s Gulf coast and four were still missing, the governor of the coastal state of Veracruz said Monday. Four migrants, also Hondurans, were pulled alive from the ocean by rescuers after their 25-foot open boat apparently capsized off the coast. Gov. Cuitláhuac García wrote that one of those rescued was a boy age 12. Garcia said a search was continuing for the missing migrants, including efforts by the Mexican navy. In another incident, immigration officials said a migrant father and his 7-year-old son were found dead in the Suchiate River, which marks the border between Mexico and Guatemala. Mexico’s national immigration institute said the 36-year-old man and his son were from El Salvador. Their bodies will be turned over to El Salvador on Tuesday.

Expert: Monkeypox likely spread by sex at 2 raves in Europe

LONDON (AP)—A leading adviser to the World Health Organization described the unprecedented outbreak of monkeypox in developed countries as “a random event” that appears to have been caused by sexual activity at two recent raves in Europe. Dr. David Heymann, who formerly headed WHO’s emergencies department, told The Associated Press that the leading theory to explain the spread of the disease was sexual transmission at raves held in Spain and Belgium. Monkeypox has not previously triggered widespread outbreaks beyond Africa, where it is endemic in animals. “We know monkeypox can spread when there is close contact with the lesions of someone who is infected, and it looks like sexual contact has now amplified that transmission,” said Heymann.

Good Housekeeping

10 ways to make MIRROR MAGIC

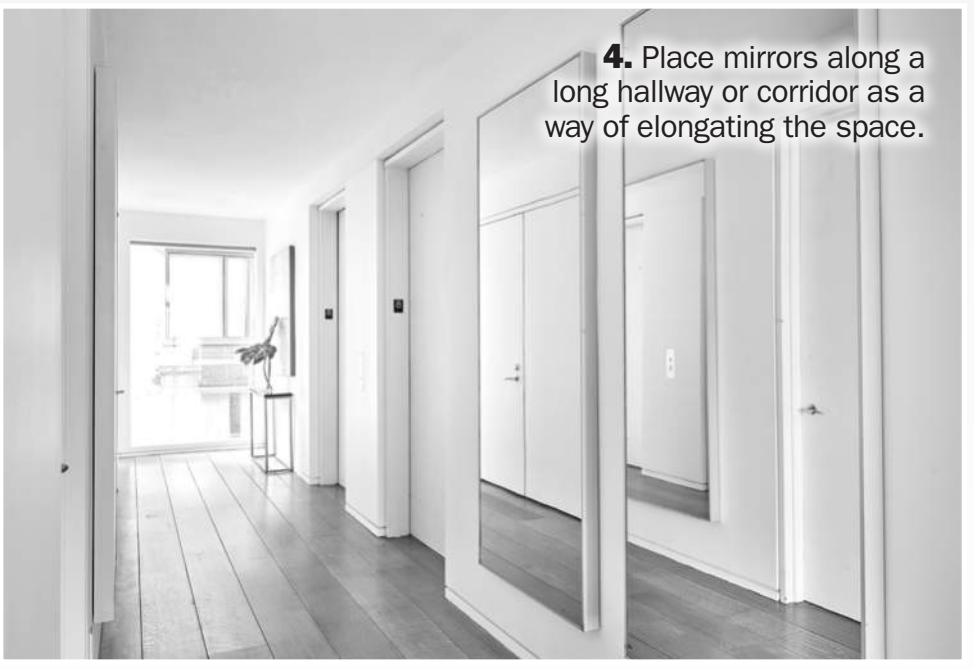
By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Whether a space is small or oversized and cavernous, mirrors can make a significant impact. For small spaces, mirrors can truly help make a space feel larger and more open, while in an overly large space, mirrors can act like windows to reflect color and light. What are some of the best ways to use mirrors? How should they be hung? Mirrors used purposefully and creatively can make a room. Here are some top tips.

1. Hang mirrors in a grid or series. This can help to create an additional window effect and help reflect light.

2. Consider mirrors with thin frames or made of finishes such as chrome or brass in spaces in which you wish to have a modern, minimal feel.

3. Use leaning mirrors in spaces in which hanging a mirror on a wall is prohibitive.



4. Place mirrors along a long hallway or corridor as a way of elongating the space.

5. Use mirrors of different sizes and scale, depending on the space. Consider both round and rectangular mirrors as well as other shapes.

6. Bring color into a space using mirrors. For example, choose a mirror with a frame in a bright color.

7. Hang mirrors at eye level, which is typically 5 feet above the finished floor. Many people hang mirrors too high or too low.

8. Place mirrors in spaces that don't get much light such as windowless rooms.

9. Consider large-scale mirrors as an alternative to artwork.

10. Hang mirrors of various sizes and shapes in a vignette if looking for an interesting wall feature.

Life & Style

‘Top Gun’ and Tom Cruise return to the danger zone

NEW YORK (AP)—In 1983, producer Jerry Bruckheimer was flipping through the May issue of California magazine when he was struck by a story. “Top Guns” read the headline, with a large photograph from inside the cockpit of an F-14 fighter jet. The story opened: “At Mach 2 and 40,000 feet over California, it’s always high noon.”

“I saw that cover and I said, ‘We gotta do this. This looks great,’” recalls Bruckheimer. “It’s ‘Star Wars’ on Earth.”

And at the box office, “Top Gun” did nearly reach “Star Wars” proportions. It was the No. 1 film of 1986, a rocket-boosted, testosterone-fueled sensation that established the then 24-year-old Tom Cruise as a major star. It made Bomber jackets, Aviator sunglasses and playing homoerotic games of beach volleyball in jeans hip just as it did military service.

AP

Tom Cruise poses for the media during the ‘Top Gun Maverick’ UK premiere at a central London cinema, on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

In the jingoist Reagan-era ‘80s, “Top Gun” was about as American as it gets. The Navy set up recruitment tables in theaters. Enlistments soared.

If all of that — the go-go patriotism, a star-led blockbuster, magazines — sounds like a like time ago, it was. But almost four decades later, and after sitting on the shelf for two years due to the pandemic, “Top Gun: Maverick” is flying full throttle into a new world.

In the film, directed by Joseph Kosinski, there’s a new mission to win and dogfights to wage. But this time, the task of “Top Gun” feels even weightier. It’s here to, in a CGI, Marvel world, prove that a propulsive brand of moviemaking fueled by star power, practical effects and filmmaking prowess can, still, summon the need for speed.

“I wanted it to have that old-school experience,” says Kosinski, director of “Tron: Legacy” and “Oblivion.” Just as Maverick is going back to Top Gun, I wanted to take the audience back to that type of filmmaking.”

Paramount Pictures, which held off on pushing “Top Gun: Maverick” to streaming, has put a military-grade push behind the sequel. After kicking off aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier in San Diego (where Cruise arrived by helicopter) a worldwide promotional tour has included stops at the Cannes Film Festival (where Cruise received an honorary Palme d’Or) and a royal premiere in London. The film, finally, opens in theaters Friday.

Surgeon: Johnny Depp’s severed finger story has flaws

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—A hand surgeon testified Monday that Johnny Depp could not have lost the tip of his middle finger the way he told jurors it happened in his civil lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard.

Depp

The finger injury, which occurred in a March 2015 fight in Australia between Depp and Heard, has been one of several key points of dispute in the lawsuit. Depp says he was injured when Heard threw a vodka bottle at him. Heard has said she never saw specifically how it happened, but that it occurred on a night when an enraged Depp sexually assaulted her with a liquor bottle.

Depp is suing Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as “a public figure representing domestic abuse.” His lawyers say he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

Depp has denied he ever struck Heard, and says she was the abuser in the relationship. Heard has testified about more than a dozen separate instances of physical abuse she says she suffered at Depp’s hands.

Heard

In testimony Monday, surgeon Richard Moore testified about the severed finger as jurors saw gruesome photos of the injury. He said that Depp described that his palm was down on a bar when it was struck by the bottle.

Moore, who did not treat Depp, testified that Depp’s description is unlikely, in large part because his fingernail remained intact. Moore said the fingernail was exposed, as Depp described the placement of his hand, and would have been damaged. Moore also said there would have been other cuts on the rest of his hand from the glass that shattered on impact.

While Depp told the jury that Heard severed the finger by throwing a vodka bottle, at the time of the accident he told people and sent text messages saying he’d done it to himself. At one point he said the finger had been pinched between solid accordion doors.

Depp now says he lied to protect Heard. Moore testified that getting the finger pinched in accordion doors would be consistent with the injury.

Burn-proof book up for auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Margaret Atwood has imagined apocalyptic disaster, Dystopian government and an author faking her own death. But until recently she had spared herself the nightmare of trying to burn one of her own books.

Atwood

With a flamethrower, no less.

She failed, and that was the point.

On Monday night, timed for PEN America’s annual gala, Atwood and Penguin Random House announced that a one-off, unburnable edition of “The Handmaid’s Tale” would be auctioned through Sotheby’s New York. They launched the initiative with a brief video that shows Atwood attempting in vain to incinerate her classic novel about a totalitarian patriarchy, the Republic of Gilead. Proceeds will be donated to PEN, which advocates for free expression around the world.

“In the category of things you never expected, this is one of them,” she said in a telephone interview.

“To see her classic novel about the dangers of oppression reborn in this innovative, unburnable edition is a timely reminder of what’s at stake in the battle against censorship,” Markus Dohle, CEO of Penguin Random House, said in a statement.

Fiance sees video and pics from the bachelorette party

DEAR ABBY: I’m about to get married to a wonderful woman. We have been together for 16 years and have two precious kids. Recently, we were treated to bachelor and bachelorette parties, a week apart. Although we all know that what goes on during them isn’t real, it’s over once you walk out the door.

Well, my fiancee has pictures and videos of her celebration. I knew what “could” have happened, but only in my imagination. Seeing these images, I now find myself constantly comparing myself to the performers. Even though I had told her that the fantasy shouldn’t come home in any way, she says there’s nothing to hide, which is why she had the pictures and videos done. Am I overreacting? The wedding is still going to happen, by the way.

FANTASY VS. REALITY

DEAR F.V.R.: While the fact that your fiancee brought home “souvenirs” is regrettable, you are going to have to let go of your anxiety. Regardless of what went on at her bachelorette party, and I know some of them can become pretty wild, you must remember that the men the bride and her attendants interacted with were HIRED for the occasion. (Just like the performers at yours were.) If this has truly affected your self-esteem, you may have to add one more item to the cost of your nuptials—some sessions with a therapist to help you straighten out your thinking.

P.S. I sincerely hope your precious children never get their hands on that video.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband’s sister and her husband, “Tom,” recently moved to the same town we live in. I adore her, and she has become a close friend. We weren’t able to get to know each other during the beginning of my marriage because we lived so far apart.

Since they moved here, she and Tom fight constantly. Every time they do, Tom wants her to come stay with us. I don’t mind an occasional overnight stay, but he wants her to move in with us! The problem is she has no income of her own and no car, or even a driver’s license. She’s totally dependent on him.

I don’t feel comfortable getting in the middle of their business. We can’t afford to take her in and take care of her, but she has nowhere else to go. What should I do? We can’t put her out on the street.

WITS’ END IN THE EAST

DEAR WITS’ END: Your sister-in-law and brother-in-law have not been fighting only since they moved to your community. It appears they have had severe marital problems that weren’t dealt with well before they arrived. It’s time for your husband to become more involved and talk with both of them.

If there are other relatives in the area, perhaps she could stay temporarily with them. Of course, if Tom has a job, he will have to contribute financially until she becomes independent. In the meantime, encourage her toward self-sufficiency by helping her familiarize herself with public transportation, which she can use to seek employment.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

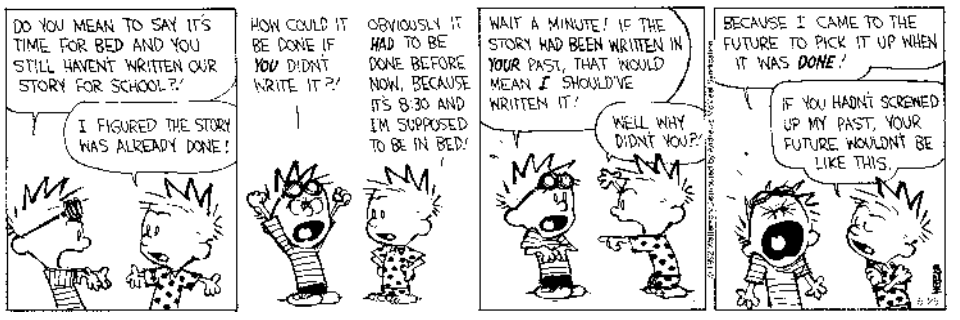
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

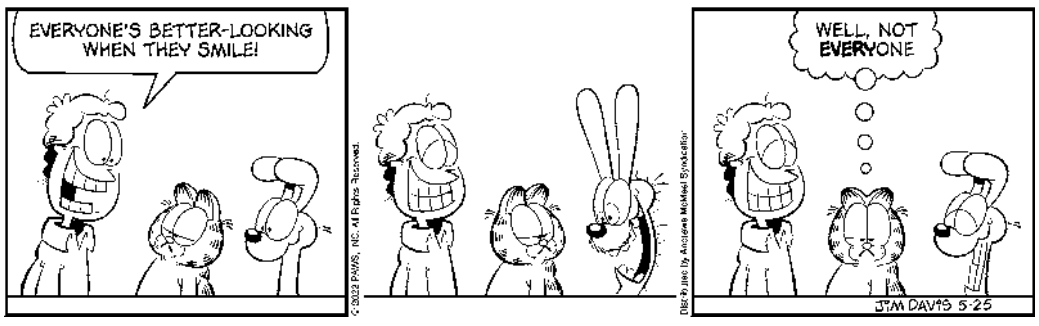
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DO YOU MEAN TO SAY IT'S TIME FOR BED AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T WRITTEN OUR STORY FOR SCHOOL?!
I FIGURED THE STORY WAS ALREADY DONE!
HOW COULD IT BE DONE IF YOU DIDN'T WRITE IT?!
OBVIOUSLY IT HAD TO BE DONE BEFORE NOW, BECAUSE IT'S 8:30 AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN BED!
WAIT A MINUTE! IF THE STORY HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN YOUR PAST, THAT WOULD MEAN I SHOULD'VE WRITTEN IT!
WELL WHY DIDN'T YOU?!
BECAUSE I CAME TO THE FUTURE TO PICK IT UP WHEN IT WAS DONE!
IF YOU HADN'T SCREWED UP MY PAST, YOUR FUTURE WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HAS YOUR MENTION ON "THE TODAY SHOW" PUSHED BOOK SALES?
TOO EARLY TO TELL.
I'M JUST THRILLED THAT THEY SAID MY NAME.
BUT...
BUT I'M STILL GOING TO CHECK THE NUMBERS EVERY TEN SECONDS. YES.
CLICK
5-25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I DON'T KNOW, FANG..
WAR, RIOTS... IT SEEMS LIKE THE WORLD HAS GONE CRAZY.
EVERYONE NEEDS TO JUST CHILL OUT WITH A GOOD SQUEAKY BONE.
5-25

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Remit
4 Poet Ogden
8 Telly watcher
12 Vegetable peeler brand
13 Doing
14 Mortgage again, for short
15 Tofu source
16 Type of question
18 Govt. security
20 "What was I thinking?"
21 Penne — vodka
24 Host
28 Authentic
32 Achy
33 Dawn goddess
34 Out on — (risking it)
36 NBC weekend show
37 Mr. Guinness
39 1994 Schwarzenegger film
41 Darn again
43 Morales of "Jericho"
44 Meadow
46 Sport played at Eton
50 HBO vampire series
55 Swiss canton
56 Duelist Aaron
57 Mystery writer Gardner
58 Phone bug
59 Contradict
60 Feeder filler
61 Map lines (Abbr.)

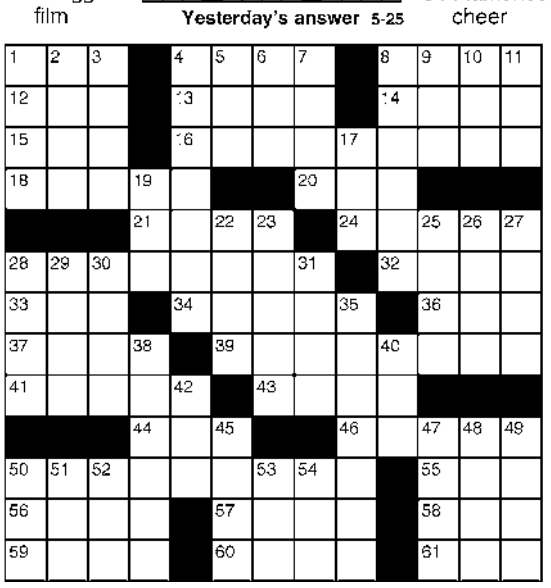
DOWN

1 Blog entry
2 Neural transmitter
3 Vacillate
4 Hazelnut-cocoa spread
5 Earth Day mo.
6 Actor Erwin
7 Tackled weeds
8 "Alto Rhapsody" composer
9 Seminary subj.
10 Conditions
11 Cravat
17 Nemesis
19 — kwon do
22 Happy tune
23 Blazing
25 "— fan tutte"
26 Sea eagle
27 Morays
28 Rip
29 Actor's part
30 Applications
31 Flightless birds
35 Like Lincoln
38 Bloody Mary garnish
40 Actress Lucy
42 Spider's home
45 Pub orders
47 Courage
48 Unruly kid
49 Shrill barks
50 Sched. placeholder
51 Regret
52 Coffee vessel
53 Vein yield
54 Flamenco cheer

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	A	R	B		K	N	O	W		C	S	I	
B	R	I	E		I	O	T	A		H	O	T	
C	I	V	I	C	D	U	L	I	Y		A	R	I
			H	O	U	S		L	J	S	I	Y	
F	O	C	J	S			B	A	S	H			
E	R	A	T		S	T	A	Y	E	D	A	T	
M	G	M		C	E	N	T	S		I	C	H	
A	S	P	H	A	L	T	S		A	E	R	O	
		O	I	L				I	N	E	R		
A	M	A	T	I		C	O	C	O				
N	C	V		C	A	N	D	Y	D	I	S	H	
T	R	I		O	W	E	D		E	L	B	A	
E	N	D		S	E	T	S		S	E	A	M	

Yesterday's answer 5-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aly Raisman, 28; Demetri Martin, 49; Octavia Spencer, 52; Mike Myers, 59.

Happy Birthday: Participating in something you believe in or a cause you want to help will promote good connections with people who have plenty to share and offer that interests you. Dig in, set priorities that will lead to a fundamental role in something that makes you feel good about your contribution and gives you the platform to make a difference. Your numbers are 6, 14, 19, 26, 33, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take better care of your emotional, physical and financial well-being. Go over personal papers and update essential documents. Revisit your spending habits and put a budget in place. Don't argue with someone you love. Be mindful and keep the peace. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let inconsistency be your downfall. Work through issues before you share them with others. Don't put yourself in the hot seat unintentionally. Look out for your interests, and find an efficient way to get ahead. Do and be your best. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do your part and contribute something worthwhile. Step out of your comfort zone if it will help someone fit in to your plans with ease. Speak up and act quickly, and you'll make a difference. Take precautions to avoid injury or illness. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the high road. Don't let anger settle in when intelligence and change can help turn things around. Go directly to the source and discuss your concerns and solutions. Take care of contractual, financial and medical issues. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pick up information and skills that will help further your interests. Taking a trip, attending a networking event or talking to someone you respect will offer insight into how to handle business and financial matters. Update your image, and make fitness a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Initiate change by taking bold steps forward. Make your plans clear, and you'll gain the support and information you need to proceed. Pace yourself; taking on too much all at once by yourself can be detrimental to your health. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Let the past go. You'll hold yourself back if you let bad feelings fester or dwell on something you cannot change. Self-improvement and interacting with people who bring out the best in you will help you leave negativity behind. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll feel liberated if you do something different or original. Think outside the box, and take part in activities and challenges that make you concentrate and use your physical skills to accomplish something extraordinary. Make a change or move for the right reason. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Spend more time sorting through junk and stuff you no longer use. Hard work will be rejuvenating when you see what you accomplish. Decluttering your space will help you think more clearly and ease unnecessary stress. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll face opposition if you are open with a friend, relative or peer. Do what works best for you, and take care of matters personally to avoid interference. A change at home will be helpful and encourage you to do what's best for you. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Do what makes you happy. Take control of your life, set standards, and live by the rules that encourage you to look and do good and be the person others look up to and respect. Be a leader, not a follower. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be unique, do things your way and dazzle everyone with your ingenuity and ability to bring about positive change. Share your thoughts with someone you know you can count on for support, and you'll receive insightful feedback and hands-on help. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, outgoing and sensitive. You are friendly and generous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	5	8				
5				6			
3	2				7		
4	7				6		
9		1			2		
6				8	4		
	3	4	9	2	8	1	
					5	7	2
						4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	9	4	6	3	1	2	8
8	1	6	2	9	5	7	4	3
4	2	3	8	1	7	5	6	9
2	6	8	3	5	1	9	7	4
5	4	7	9	8	6	3	1	2
9	3	1	7	4	2	6	8	5
6	8	5	1	2	9	4	3	7
3	9	4	6	7	8	2	5	1
1	7	2	5	3	4	8	9	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SUIT JACKETS **Solution: 7 letters**

S	D	W	S	U	S	P	E	N	D	E	R	S	S	E
L	K	A	S	S	M	G	T	W	E	E	D	I	H	S
E	L	I	E	T	N	O	R	U	S	I	L	Z	A	R
E	A	S	R	I	N	R	D	A	X	K	G	E	N	E
V	U	T	D	T	T	E	E	E	Y	E	S	L	D	S
E	S	D	E	C	A	S	M	Z	R	H	D	O	K	U
S	A	E	N	H	O	Y	E	E	A	N	N	O	E	O
P	C	C	I	E	C	G	I	P	R	L	S	H	R	R
A	S	I	M	N	N	N	E	R	I	U	B	C	C	T
T	T	F	A	O	N	I	T	S	U	R	S	S	H	R
T	E	F	L	O	R	A	L	I	T	O	T	A	I	O
E	K	O	T	E	R	U	T	C	U	R	T	S	E	F
R	C	U	F	F	L	I	N	K	S	S	O	N	F	M
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B	P	R	O	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	A	L	S	C

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Blazer, Boutonnière, Casual, Coat, Comfort, Contour, Cufflinks, Denim, Dress, Fancy, Fashion, Floral, Formal, Gray, Handkerchief, Linen, Long, Measurement, Modern, Office, Padding, Pattern, Pockets, Professional, School, Shape, Silk, Size, Skirt, Sleeves, Sports, Stitch, Stripes, Structure, Suit, Suspenders, Trousers, Tuxedo, Tweed, Waist

Yesterday's Answer: Beach

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Celtics torch Heat early, even series with 102-82 blowout

BOSTON (AP)—The Miami Heat left Jayson Tatum lying on the court with a pain in his neck in the closing minutes of Game 3.

The Celtics All-Star did his part to make sure the Heat were hurting after Game 4.

Tatum scored 31 points and Boston took its turn pounding Miami early, jumping out to a 26-4 lead and cruising to a 102-82 victory that evened the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

"Obviously, we knew how important this game was," Tatum said. "Everybody just had to come up with a different sense of urgency."

Miami missed 15 of its first 16 shots as this bizarre series produced another game that was all but over after 12 minutes. The Heat led 39-18 after the first quarter of Game 3.

Boston improved to 5-0 this postseason following a loss. Coach Ime Udoka said the challenge is finding more consistency.

"Just got to muster that same energy when we came off a win as well as a loss," Udoka said. "This is a three-game series now. Can't always just flip the mindset when we come off a loss and get a little desperate."

Game 5 is Wednesday in Miami.

Payton Pritchard had 14 points for the Celtics. Derrick White added 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Robert Williams finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) shoots over Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals, Monday, May 23, 2022, in Boston.

"We just wanted to up the effort all-around," Williams said.

The Celtics led by 27 points in the second quarter and stretched their advantage to 32 in the third. Each game in this series has featured a lead of at least 20 points, and none has been close down the stretch.

Victor Oladipo led the Heat with 23 points. Miami's starting five of All-Star Jimmy Butler (six points), Kyle Lowry (three points), P.J. Tucker (no points), Max Strus (no points) and Bam Adebayo (nine points) were a combined 7 of 36 shooting. They all sat out the fourth quarter.

"They came out and jumped us," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We're not making any excuses. They outplayed us tonight for sure. We never could get any kind of grip on the game."

And the Celtics stymied the Heat without Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart, who sat with a sprained right ankle he suffered in the second half of Game 3.

The Heat were without Tyler Herro, who suffered a groin injury late in Game 3.

Butler was in the starting lineup after missing the second half of Game 3 with swelling in his right knee. Lowry (strained left hamstring), Strus (strained hamstring) and Tucker (left knee irritation) all tested their injuries pregame before being cleared to go.

"It's a part of the playoffs. You learn to adapt," Adebayo said. "Guys being out, guys playing half, guys playing 20 minutes in the game, just depends. You've just got to find a way to win."

Boston's Williams returned after missing a game with soreness in his surgically repaired left knee.

Even with their banged-up roster, the Celtics enjoyed their fastest start of the series. Starting in place of Smart, White scored the game's first seven points as Boston took an 8-0 lead.

It quickly grew to 18-1, with Miami misfiring on its first 14 shots. The Heat didn't get their first points until Adebayo's free throw at the 7:56 mark. Miami made its first field goal at 3:22, a 3-pointer by Oladipo, and finished the quarter 3 for 20.

The Celtics took a 29-11 lead into the second quarter and led 57-33 at the half.

Connelly leaves Nuggets for similar role with Timberwolves

DENVER (AP)—Tim Connelly is leaving his job as president of basketball operations of the Denver Nuggets for a similar role with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Connelly agreed to the deal on Monday, the Timberwolves announced.

The 45-year-old Connelly steadily built the Nuggets into a perennial playoff contender through draft picks that included two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic and point guard Jamal Murray.

Connelly's decision to switch teams inside the Western Conference's Northwest Division was first reported by The Athletic and ESPN. The deal is reportedly for five years and worth more than $40 million. It also includes ownership equity.

"My family and I couldn't be more excited to join the Timberwolves organization," Connelly said in a statement. "I can't wait to get to work to build an elite franchise that our fans can continue to be proud of."

In Minnesota, Connelly will oversee a team led by Karl-Anthony Towns and Anthony Edwards. The Timberwolves are coming off a 46-win season and their first playoff appearance since 2018. They took the second-seeded Memphis Grizzlies to six games before being eliminated.

Connelly's first opportunity to enhance the promising roster he's inheriting will come in one month at the draft, when the Timberwolves have the 19th overall pick in the first round. They also have three second-round choices.

Towns has two years and more than $69 million remaining on his contract, and if he's an All-NBA selection, he'll be eligible for a max extension. The more pressing matter will be the status of point guard D'Angelo Russell, the No. 3 scorer in the still-developing star trio. He'll be entering the final year of his deal, with a 2022-23 salary of more than $31 million, after another up-and-down season with inconsistency that stretched into the playoff series against the Grizzlies.

The Timberwolves could also use help at the power forward spot, where Jarred Vanderbilt was the primary starter this season. The 23-year-old Vanderbilt averaged 6.9 points and 8.4 rebounds per game. He was brought to the Nuggets by Connelly in a trade in 2018, and then sent to the Timberwolves in a multi-team deal in 2020.

"This is such an important hire for the organization and our fans, we are confident that Tim's leadership will be a major part of our continued growth and future success," said Ethan Casson, the Timberwolves and Lynx's chief executive officer.

Minnesota shook up its front office right before training camp began last fall when the team fired Gersson Rosas in response to mounting tension around him in the building. Sachin Gupta was promoted to be president of basketball operations in Rosas' place, with the caveat that the position would be evaluated again this summer. The team said Connelly will work closely with Gupta.

Gupta is well-regarded within the organization for his humble, steady leadership, notably by coach Chris Finch. The franchise is currently in an ownership transition, with Glen Taylor in the process of handing over control to co-buyers Marc Lore and Alex Rodriguez in a sale that's scheduled to be completed by the end of next year.

Connelly joined the Nuggets in 2013 when he took over for Masai Ujiri when Ujiri left for the Toronto Raptors. He helped bring in coach Michael Malone and built the roster through picks like Jokic (41st overall) and Murray (seventh), along with Michael Porter Jr. (14th). More recently, it's been Zeke Nnaji (22nd) and Bones Hyland (26th). Connelly has also orchestrated several big moves, including the addition of Aaron Gordon at the 2021 trade deadline.

The Nuggets won 48 games this season despite missing two max players in Murray (knee) and Porter (back).

With Connelly leaving, the Nuggets could give more responsibility to general manager Calvin Booth. One of Denver's top priorities this summer is signing Jokic to a super-max deal.

NBA fines Mavs $100,000 for 3rd bench violation in playoffs

DALLAS (AP)—The NBA fined the Dallas Mavericks for a third time in the playoffs on Sunday because of violations of rules regarding their bench.

The fine has doubled each time, with the latest at $100,000 after Game 2 of the Western Conference finals at Golden State on Friday. Game 3 in Dallas was Sunday night. None of the fines was from games in Dallas.

Several Mavericks players have stood for most or all of the games during the playoffs, including home games. The fines have been for players and coaches standing for extended periods, straying too far from the bench and encroaching on the court during game action.

The first two fines were from the West semifinals against Phoenix, after Games 2 and 7 in Arizona. The first fine was $25,000, the second $50,000 after a 33-point Dallas victory in the deciding game.

During the Warriors' 126-117 victory in Game 2, Stephen Curry threw a pass out of bounds with no teammate in the area. The pass was in the vicinity of Dallas' Theo Pinson, who was wearing a white shirt while standing and waving. Golden State was wearing its home white uniforms.

"He's got his arms up, calling for the ball," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said after shootaround Sunday. "That's too much."

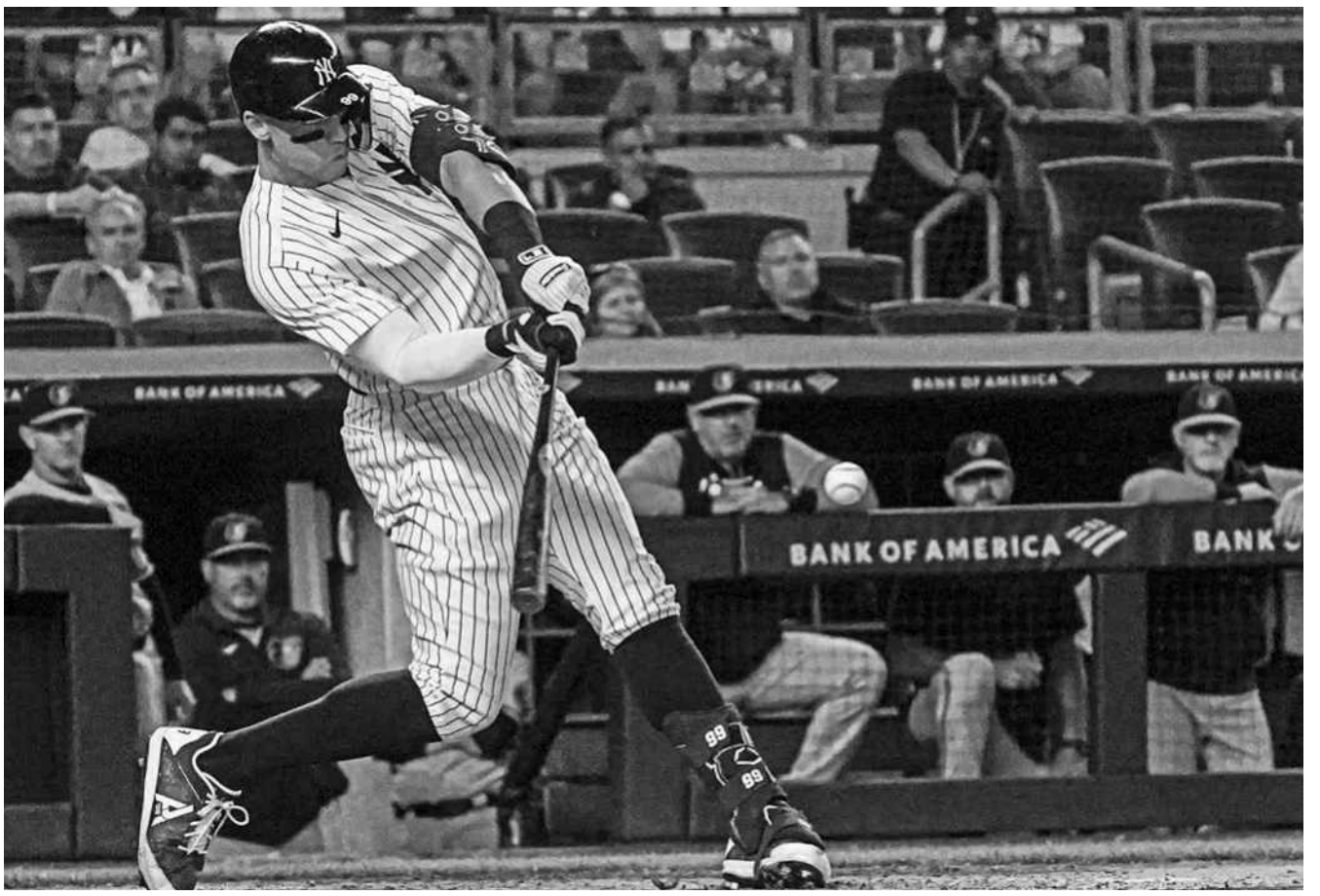
Kerr added that Curry's turnover was the only time he was upset with the Dallas bench during Game 2.

"In fact, I love their bench," Kerr said. "They've got great chemistry, great energy. They've had a phenomenal season, and part of it is because they're so connected."

Pinson signed a 10-day contract with the Mavericks during a COVID-19 outbreak early in the season. He ended up getting a two-year deal and has been leading cheers from the bench as his playing time dwindled. Pinson has been inactive in the playoffs.

Tim Hardaway Jr. also has gotten into the spirit of cheering from the bench. He's been out since January with a broken left foot and isn't expected to return during the playoffs.

Judge hits 2 more HRs, but Orioles defeat Yankees 6-4



AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge hits a home run during fifth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Monday May 23, 2022, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) — Ramón Urías hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning off Gerrit Cole and the Baltimore Orioles withstood Aaron Judge's two home runs to beat the Yankees 6-4 on Monday night and send New York to its season-high third straight loss.

Earlier, Major League Baseball suspended Yankees slugger Josh Donaldson for one game and fined him an undisclosed amount after he made multiple references to Jackie Robinson while talking to White Sox star Tim Anderson on Saturday. Shortly before the penalty was announced, the Yankees put Donaldson on the COVID-19 injured list.

Urías started Baltimore's four-run third with a double down the left field line, then snapped a 4-all tie by lining an 0-1 fastball to the short porch in right field off Cole (4-1). The Yankees starter allowed a season-worst five runs and seven hits in eight innings. He struck out 11 for his 49th career double-digit strikeout game.

Judge upped his major league-leading home run total to 17, and hit his 31st and 32nd career homers against Baltimore pitching when he connected in the first and fifth off Jordan Lyles (3-4).

Cardinals 7, Blue Jays 3, 10 innings

In St. Louis. Paul Goldschmidt hit a walk-off grand slam in the 10th inning, lifting St. Louis over Toronto.

St. Louis native David Phelps (0-1) began the 10th and a wild pitch sent pinch-runner Lars Nootbaar — who was on second as the automatic runner — to third. After striking out two, Phelps walked Tommy Edman. Ryan Borucki, the sixth Toronto pitcher, came in and walked pinch-hitter Edmundo Sosa.

Goldschmidt, who sat out Sunday, sent a 1-2 pitch over the left field fence for his seventh homer. It was his seventh career grand slam and his seventh winning homer and his seventh extra-inning home run. It extended his hitting streak to 15 games.

Genesis Cabrera (2-1) was the fifth St. Louis pitcher and pitched the 10th inning to pick up the victory as the Cardinals won their fourth straight overall and improved to 1-1 in extra innings. Rookie Juan Yepez also homered for St. Louis.

George Springer homered for Toronto, which fell to 1-2 in extra-inning games.

Mets 13, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Pete Alonso hit an early three-run homer moments after Francisco Lindor's tying, two-run double, and New York routed stumbling San Francisco.

Jeff McNeil added a two-run homer in the eighth inning and Mark Canha followed with a solo drive in his return to the Bay Area after playing for the Oakland Athletics. That was the second time the Mets connected for back-to-back homers this year, also on April 15 against Arizona.

Brandon Crawford put the Giants on the board first with a two-run homer in the second off lefty David Peterson (2-0), pitching in Max Scherzer's place with the ace right-hander sidelined by an oblique strain.

Defending NL West champion San Francisco, which won a franchise-best 107 games last season, matched the club's longest losing streak of the season at five games. Alex Cobb (3-2) was tagged for 10 hits in his second straight start. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter over six innings.

Dodgers 10, Nationals 1

In Washington, Tyler Anderson pitched eight shutout innings, Trea Turner had three RBIs in his first game against his former team and Los Angeles routed Washington.

Anderson retired his first 16 batters before César Hernández's one-out double in the sixth.

Turner, who spent seven seasons with the Nationals before his trade to Los Angeles last July, extended his hitting streak to 15 games with a two-run single in the sixth. He also had an RBI groundout in his first at-bat.

The Dodgers have won eight of nine and own the best record in the National League at 28-13. Washington fell to 5-16 at Nationals Park, the worst home record in the majors.

Anderson (5-0) needed just 50 pitches to breeze through five innings. He allowed five hits, striking out eight while walking none.

Nationals rookie Joan Adon (1-8) dropped his sixth consecutive start and leads the majors in losses.

Phillies 7, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Zack Wheeler pitched 6 2/3 strong innings with a season-high 10 strikeouts, Rhys Hoskins knocked in three runs with an early double and Philadelphia beat Atlanta.

The teams began the day tied for second in the division, eight games out of the lead, and hadn't met since Sept. 30 when the defending World Series champion Braves won to clinch their fourth consecutive NL East title.

Wheeler (3-3) improved to 3-0 with a 1.38 ERA with 40 strikeouts in his last five starts. Last year's Cy Young Award runner-up has allowed two runs or less in four of them. Wheeler gave up eight hits and two runs with no walks.

Atlanta starter Tucker Davidson (1-1) was charged with four hits, five runs and four walks in 2 2/3 innings.

Twins 5, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler hit an early grand slam, and Gio Urshela's infield single in the bottom of the ninth inning gave Minnesota a win over Detroit.

Urshela hit a grounder toward Tigers shortstop Javier Báez, who couldn't make a play. That allowed Kepler to score the winning run. It's the second time this season the Twins have walked off the Tigers at Target Field. Minnesota won in walk-off fashion on a bizarre series of plays April 26 against Detroit.

Emilio Pagan (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings of relief to earn the win. Andrew Chafin (0-1) took the loss.

Kepler's grand slam was the 1,000th home run hit by the Twins at Target Field since the stadium opened in 2010.

Cubs 7, Reds 4

In Cincinnatti, Ian Happ and Patrick Wisdom hit three-run homers and Chicago beat Cincinnati despite two home runs by Aristides Aquino.

Happ drove in Seiya Suzuki with a fourth-inning double before Wisdom hit his team-leading 10th homer. With Chicago holding a 4-3 lead with two outs in the seventh, Happ drove the first pitch he saw from reliever Luis Cessa into the right-field bleachers.

Drew Smyly (2-5) went 5 2/3 innings, allowing three runs and four hits while striking out five. David Robertson closed for his sixth save.

Reds starter Vladimir Gutierrez (0-6) lasted four innings, allowing four runs and four hits and striking out five. Tommy Pham hit a solo homer for Cincinnati.

Pirates 2, Rockies 1

In Pittsburgh, Ke'Bryan Hayes had three hits and scored the tiebreaking run on Yoshi Tsutsugo's infield single in the eighth inning as Pittsburgh edged Colorado.

Hayes singled to lead off the eighth against Tyler Kinley (1-1), stole second base and advanced to third on Daniel Vogelbach's groundout. Tsutsugo then beat out a slow bouncer to second base, enabling Hayes to score.

David Bednar (1-0) escaped a first-and-second jam in the eighth to keep it tied at 1. He followed with a scoreless ninth.

Josh VanMeter added two hits for the Pirates, who had lost three straight games. Connor Joe had two hits for the Rockies, who have lost 10 of their last 11 road games and eight of their last 12 games against the Pirates.

Guardians 6, Astros 1

In Houston, José Ramírez homered with four RBIs and Triston McKenzie pitched seven sharp innings to help Cleveland top Houston.

Ramírez had two hits, highlighted by a two-run shot in the fifth inning that pushed the lead to 4-0.

McKenzie (3-3) allowed just three hits as he pitched a season-high seven innings for his second straight start. The only run he allowed came on a solo homer by Alex Bregman to start the seventh.

Houston starter Luis Garcia (3-3) allowed five hits and four runs, two of which were earned, but the other two came because of his throwing error in the third.

Padres 3, Brewers 2, 10 innings

In San Diego, Padres rookie José Azocar singled home Manny Machado with two outs and the bases loaded in the 10th inning to lift San Diego over NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Machado, the NL's hottest hitter, started the inning as the automatic runner on second base and advanced on Jurickson Profar's groundout. Miguel Sánchez (0-1) intentionally walked Eric Hosmer and Wil Myers to load the bases before Kim Ha-seong lined out to shortstop Luis Urias. Azocar then lined a single to center to bring in Machado.

The Padres won their fifth straight game.

The Brewers loaded the bases with no outs in the 10th before Luis Garcia (3-2) got Andrew McCutchen to ground into a 1-2-3 double play. Rowdy Tellez then grounded out.

Mariners 7, Athletics 6

In Seattle, prized rookie Julio Rodríguez homered at home for the first time, a three-run shot to give Seattle an early lead, and the Mariners won their 13th straight over Oakland.

Cal Raleigh and Eugenio Suárez each added a two-run homer as the Mariners extended their domination of the A's dating to last season. Seattle went 15-4 against Oakland last year and hasn't lost to the A's since July 22, 2021.

All the Seattle home runs came off Zach Logue (2-3), who was tagged for seven earned runs after allowing four total in his previous three starts.

Marco Gonzales (3-4) went 5 1/3 innings for the win. Paul Sewald pitched the ninth for his second save.

Chad Pinder homered for the A's, and Cristian Pache had a two-run double.

Diamondbacks 9, Royals 5

In Phoenix, Christian Walker and Pavin Smith homered, Ketel Marte's two-run double broke a fourth-inning tie and Arizona beat Kansas City in Zack Greinke's return to Chase Field.

Greinke (0-3) gave up seven earned runs, two homers and four walks for the Royals — all season highs.

Whit Merrifield, Bobby Witt Jr. and Hunter Dozier hit solo homers 13 pitches into the game, and the Royals added another run in the first inning for a 4-0 lead before falling apart for the second consecutive day.

Kansas City, which has lost five in a row and seven of nine, failed to hold a 6-0 lead after seven innings in a 7-6 home loss to Minnesota on Sunday.

J.B. Wendelken (1-1) got out of a bases-loaded situation after replacing injured starter Zach Davies in the fourth inning for the Diamondbacks, who have won four of five.

Davies gave up eight hits and five runs before being knocked out of the game with a bruised right leg when he was struck by Witt's line drive.

Greinke pitched his first game at Chase Field since July 2019, before Arizona traded him to Houston. He joined the Diamondbacks on a six-year, $206.5 million contract in 2016.

Mangrove Run part deux on June 4

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Participants of last year's Mangrove 5K pose for a group photo at the starting/finishing line across the U.S. Army base/troop store in Puerto Rico. Run Saipan will host the 2nd Annual Mangrove 5K on June 4 at the same area.

Run Saipan will be holding its 2nd Annual Mangrove 5K on June 4, starting 6am near the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

The Mangrove Run is named after the shrubs that line up the pathway along the run route past the Boating Safety Office toward what used to be the Puerto Rico dump site.

Like last year, participants will line up at the starting line across the U.S. Army base/troop store. They will then proceed to the Outer Cove Marina and then turn around at the Micro Beach pavilion before returning to the starting line.

"It's the same route as last year. People have to run into the two corners of the marina and back out, follow the pathway until the Micro Beach Pavilion and then run all the way back to the start line," said Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr.

Last year, Marshall Hoskins and Noriko Jim won the debut of the Mangrove 5K.

Hoskins completed the 5K run in 19.28, while Jim topped the women's division in 22.20.

Entry fee to the 2nd Annual Mangrove 5K is free for Run Saipan members and $5 for non-members.

Shoe drive continues

Dela Cruz also reminded the community that Run Saipan's shoe drive is continuing. The campaign intends to help Rota residents who will take part in a 5K fun run.

Dubbed Couch to 5K Run, the event is organized by the Northern Marianas College with help from Run Saipan.

Dela Cruz said those who want to donate their extra pairs of "good condition" running shoes to please bring them to NMC Building B or just hand them over to any Run Saipan officers.

MARPAC

From Page 20

entire MMI for your support. The $25,000 will definitely be used. As a host we also have our responsibility on accommodation, transportation, and catering so it will definitely be well in use for those three avenues," said Babauta.

The first of the countries will be coming in soon, with Fiji making their way here on June 9, with the rest of the countries coming in on June 14 to 15.

Marco Peter, who chairs the MGOC, thanked Marpac "on behalf of our game organizing committee, and administration and government, we appreciate this contribution that you have for us and it's gonna go a long way… This gift will go a very long way to support us to deliver the games".

LEIGH GASES

Northern Marianas Pacific Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, fifth from right, holds the $25,000 check turned over by Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney, fourth from left, at the Marpac office in Gualo Rai yesterday afternoon.

SLLBA

From Page 20

in the return of Little League after the COVID-19 pandemic mothballed the past couple of seasons.

"Not really leaving on a high note because Little League has been dormant the past couple of years because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Borja said at least he's leaving with a competent Little League board intact.

"I have confidence in whoever is coming in. We cannot hold people down. We have to help each other. There's only one Marianas and if we try to negatively label somebody it's not appropriate. One thing that also makes me proud of this Little League program is that it's a diverse group as we not only have men on the board but also a lot of women. Annie Flores is still there and Peding Tenorio is still there."

He's also glad that things are about to look up for Little League with the Francisco "Tan' Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field as good as new following a makeover for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Borja also noticed that despite having no Little League program the past couple of years, interest on local baseball talent hasn't waned as evidenced by the two-day baseball clinic the University of Guam will be hosting at the Capitol Hill Softball Field this week.

"Good that UOG will be here for a sports clinic and also tell the kids what are the benefits and the opportunities of playing college baseball at UOG. It's good that here in our region we're working collaboratively instead of going against each other. We're all Marianas and just because we're separated by water doesn't mean we can't work together," he said.

Borja's biggest supporter, his wife Geraldine, couldn't hide her relief that she'll finally have his husband home for the weekends.

"Of course I'm happy but I think my grandkids are happier because he'll finally be with them every weekend," she said.

And Borja couldn't agree more. "The past 30 or so years every Little League season Saturday and Sunday I'll be on the field…but I'll still be around Little League to help if the board needs me," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	29	13	.690	–
Tampa Bay	24	17	.585	4½
Toronto	22	20	.524	7
Boston	19	22	.463	9½
Baltimore	18	25	.419	11½

Central Division

Minnesota	26	16	.619	–
Chicago	21	20	.512	4½
Cleveland	18	20	.474	6
Detroit	14	27	.341	11½
Kansas City	14	27	.341	11½

West Division

Houston	27	16	.628	–
Los Angeles	26	17	.605	1
Texas	18	22	.450	7½
Seattle	18	25	.419	9
Oakland	17	27	.386	10½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	29	15	.659	–
Philadelphia	20	22	.476	8
Atlanta	19	23	.452	9
Miami	18	22	.450	9
Washington	14	29	.326	14½

Central Division

Milwaukee	26	16	.619	–
St. Louis	24	18	.571	2
Chicago	17	24	.415	8½
Pittsburgh	17	24	.415	8½
Cincinnati	12	29	.293	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	28	13	.683	–
San Diego	28	14	.667	½
San Francisco	22	19	.537	6
Arizona	22	22	.500	7½
Colorado	19	22	.463	9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATANSA

From Page 20

with a 2-1 win over Bangladesh FC, while Saipan United got a free victory against Chang Bai Hu (forfeit).

Jerry Tan and Carl Salas registered the pair of goals for Shirley's, which finished the season with a 2-0-4 record. Hmel Bapari logged the lone goal for Bangladesh FC, which had only one victory in six games in the competition.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings FC kept its hold to the top spot in MSL after whipping Kanoa last weekend, 12-0.

Kohtaro Goto led the victory with his hat trick, while Christopher Aninzo and Joshua Waldo contributed two goals each, and Joshua Abragan, Taka Borja, and Reginald Pascual hit one apiece. TanHoldings is still undefeated in five games to lead Paire (3-0-2), Eleven Tiger (2-1-1), NMI U17 National Team (1-1-3), and Kanoa FC (0-0-5).

Paire got win No. 3 after outclassing the NMI U17, 4-2. Brandon Tenorio, Ajani Burrell, Daniel Duenas, and Philip Megino scored for Paire, while the NMI U17's two goals were courtesy of Markus Toves and Isaiah Hossain.

Teams entered in MSL has six playing days left before rankings are determined and pairings for the knockout stage are set. Pairings will be the No. 1 finisher in MSL vs No. 3 in MSL 2; MSL No. 4 vs MSL No. 5; MSL No. 2 vs MSL 2 No. 2; and MSL No. 3 vs MSL 2 No. 1. Since Matansa, Old B Bank, and Hana FC have similar records, their rankings will be decided by goals scored.

Celtics torch Heat early, even series with 102-82 blowout

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mangrove Run part deux on June 4

PAGE 19

SLLBA's Mike Borja to step down

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Mike Borja will be stepping down from his post due to health issues and to have more time with his family.

The 54-year-old Division of Roads and Grounds director has served the Little League board for over 30 years and has been president for around 20 years.

"I will call a meeting to formally tell the board I'm stepping down. I'm planning to retire from the Little League board after the Pacific Mini Games," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The lifelong San Francisco Giants fan said recent health problems is forcing him to step down from the presidency of the local Little League program.

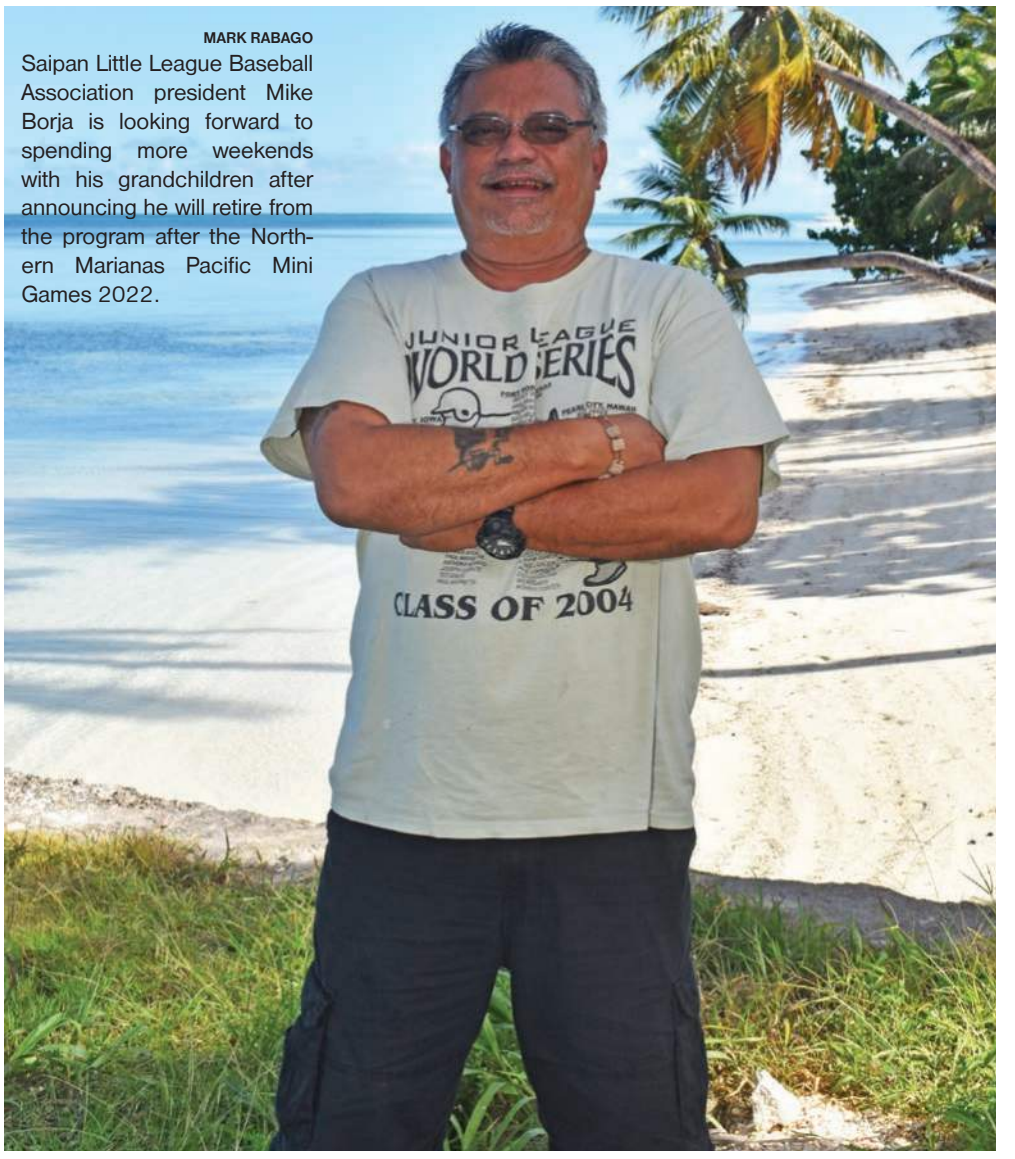
"I want to avoid being stressed because of my high blood pressure and in 2019 I had an internal bleeding. I also have eight grandkids and I want to spend more time with them."

Borja said his proudest accomplishment as Little League president is that the program excelled in regional tournaments and even advanced to many World Series during his tenure.

"There's a lot of them from Majors division, to Junior and Senior leagues, and even Big League."

His only regret is not having the opportunity to usher

See SLLBA on Page 19



MARK RABAGO
Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Mike Borja is looking forward to spending more weekends with his grandchildren after announcing he will retire from the program after the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Matansa, 2 others reach playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club, Old B Bank, and Hana FC moved into the playoff round of the Marianas Soccer League Spring Season 2022 as the regular season competition in MSL 2 Division wrapped up last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The three teams finished with identical 4-1-1 win-draw-loss record to qualify for the knockout phase of the season that would also involve the five participating squads in MSL Division. This season's playoff format calls for the three teams with the best record in MSL 2 and the first to fifth placers in MSL to battle for the championship.

The Old B Bank earned a 4-1-1 mark after a 2-1 win over Matansa last weekend. Jun Liu and Andrei Ferrer nailed the twin goals for the Old B Bank, while Harry Kapwich made the lone goal for Matansa.

Hana FC, on the other hand, cruised to a 6-1 triumph over the NMI Women's Developmental Team for its fourth win in the double-round robin regular season. Ace Lee led Hana FC's easy victory after firing four goals, while Don Cabrera and Sang Hun Lee chipped in apiece. The NMI WDT avoided a shutout loss after drawing a goal from Kaithlyn Chavez.

In other results in MSL 2, Shirley's closed out the season

See MATANSA on Page 19

ONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matansa Football Club's Dylan Mister kicks the ball during their earlier game against the Old B Bank in MSL 2 of the Marianas Soccer League Spring Season at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Marpac is latest silver sponsor for Mini Games

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

As the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 draws nearer, businesses continue to come out in support with Marianas Distributors Inc. the latest silver sponsor, donating $25,000 to the games yesterday at the Marpac office in Gualo Rai.

Guy Pudney, resident manager of Marpac, together with James Lee, sales and marketing manager of Marpac, turned over the check yesterday, with $15,000 in cash donation and $10,000 in-kind donations to the Mini Games Organizing Committee.

Pudney said during the check presentation that Marpac's donation was delayed because of a death in the company, but they're just glad that they were able to do so. He also thanked the organizing team for their hard work in preparation for the games.

Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta said the generous cash and in-kind donations of Marpac will go a long way to provide the athletes, guests, and visitors a wonderful experience.

"Thank you very much on behalf of the staff and management of the Pacific Mini Games and of course the organizing committee and the

See MARPAC on Page 19